I Was a Sword When I Reincarnated - WN Chapter 01-57

Table of Contents

1. Light Novel V1 Illustrations
2. Chapter 1: It's a Sword?
3. Chapter 2: I can Fly
4. Chapter 3: Encounter with Goblins!
5. Chapter 4: Skills, Magic Stones, and Me
6. Chapter 5: Rank Up!
7. Chapter 6: Goblin・Immediately・Decapitated!
8. Chapter 7: Night Flight
9. Chapter 8: My first time using Magic
10. Chapter 9: Fierce Battle! The Menace of Area 5
11. Chapter 10: Let's go to Area 5
12. Chapter 11: Departure for Lunch

13. Chapter 12: Can a Sword mofu a Kemonomimi?
14. Chapter 13: Teacher & Fran
15. Chapter 14: The Walk to Town
16. Chapter 15: Randell the Merchant
17. Chapter 16: Arrival at the Town of Aressa
18. Chapter 17: My Insignificant Doubts
19. Chapter 18: VS Donnadorondo
20. Chapter 19: We Joined the Guild
21. Chapter 20: Selling Materials
22. Chapter 21: Cliché
23. Chapter 22: Nell's Side
24. Chapter 23: Old man Gallus
25. Chapter 24: Equipment Acquisition
26. Chapter 25: *Dokidoki* — I'm a guy, after all
27. Chapter 26: Sa—ber Tige—r
28. Chapter 27: These Guys Again
29. Chapter 28: Resolution and Growth
30. Chapter 29: Spoils from the Goblins
31. Chapter 30: Ranking Up
32. Chapter 31: Organization and Verification
33. Chapter 32: Fran's Side
34. Chapter 33: Arrangements before the Departure
35. Chapter 34: Goblin Subjugation – Outbreak of war
36. Chapter 35: Goblin Subjugation – Storming in
37. Chapter 36: Goblin Subjugation – Demon
38. Chapter 37: Goblin Subjugation – Conclusion
39. Chapter 38: Goblin Subjugation – Return
40. Chapter 39: A Cliché 'Foolish Noble' Appeared
41. Chapter 40: Poisonous Fish Seem to be Delicious
42. Chapter 41: Otherworldly Cooking
43. Chapter 42: Regarding the Future and Such
44. Chapter 43: What Occurred
45. Chapter 44: After What Occurred
46. Chapter 45: Return of the A Rank
47. Chapter 46: Introductions
48. Chapter 47: A Little Bit of Training

49. Chapter 48: A Short Spar
50. Chapter 49: Lessons from Ms. Amanda ～The So-Called Explanation-Time～
51. Chapter 50: Traps and Tricks
52. Chapter 51: Its name is Urushi
53. Chapter 52: Heading for Fran
54. Chapter 53: Exceeding the Limit
55. Chapter 54: Urushi and Fran
56. Chapter 55: Do Tricksters Feel Fear?
57. Chapter 56: The Core Room
58. Chapter 57: Returning to Aressa

Chapter 1: It’s a Sword?

1.Its a sword?

[T/N: This an author's note. Though I too look forward to working with you.]

This is my first post. I look forward to working with you.

Chapter 1

Where am I?

I woke, and the first thing that came to my eyes was a beautiful sight. The gloomy sky stretched as far as the horizon. Light shines through the deep water like an halo. The sun is about to rise. The view of the sunrise from the top of a high mountain glittered like a rainbow, and I was thoroughly impressed.

The moon is setting on the other side of the horizon. A huge silver disk that I didn’t see. It’s top is disappearing on the other side of the horizon right now.

It’s an overwhelming scene. I have lived for 30 years and I haven’t seen such a beautiful scene. It’s strange that I don’t cry.

No wait. I lived for 30 years? Am I still alive? I mean, I’m dead?

The scene I saw last, was a bright red convertible that was in bad taste. The man in the driver seat had a smartphone in one hand, thinking about the day after tomorrow, and a laugh like a horse.

Yes, even while driving. He laughed happily. But I didn't have fun at all this fucking bastard!

And so, I remembered so much my heart cried… …. I should be dead. No, I'm dead?

『U-mu. What is that thing?』
『So. Are you finally awake?』
『Uo! Who is it?』

Suddenly a voice sounded. The figure isn't seen in the surrounding area. No, doesn't it echo in my head?

『It's going to be hard, so hang in there.』
『Eh? EH?』
『Well, see you ar-』

Then, I couldn't hear the man's voice anymore.

『Eh? Hell-o?』

I called out, but there wasn't any answer. Just what was that? Auditory hallucination? But I heard it clearly… ….

Then, in order to look at the surrounding area, I tried to move.

My body doesn't move.

『Oof? But Why? Or rather, what was I?』

I thought I was tied up, but it doesn't seem that simple.

My body feels strange. First I don't have any feeling in my hands and feet. No, in the first place, everything besides them feel strange.

『No eyelids. Eyes… …. If I can't feel my eyes, how can I see?』

I looked down at my body. I was a little uneasy, but I could move my gaze.

『… … It's a sword.』

In my line of sight, lodged inside a pedestal, was a sword.

For some reason, my body is a sword, and I understand it is natural. The situation is beyond the scope of understanding. But even so, if a sword = myself, without a doubt, I understood it.

Eyes——ish thing, is in the sword's foundation.

『I died… … and reincarnated as a sword?』

What second-rate light novel is this. I want to think that this is a dream, but I can't pinch my cheeks with this body.

『For the time being, a sense of skin?There's something like that.』

My body is a blade, that pierces the pedestal beneath it, is something I understood. It was different from the feeling of touching skin, but there was some feeling of touch.

『Another world?』

That much is certain.
Anyways, the sun and the moon are out at the same time. It isn't the huge silver moon that set a moment ago, it's a smaller moon.

Besides, red, blue, green, purple and yellow, pink, there are six more moons that sparkle in the sky.

『Usually, when it's a light novel of a different world reincarnation thing, there's usually a cheat ability.』

Would I who reincarnated as a sword, in the first place be able to handle a skill?
『The classic reincarnation cheat is appraisal but… … . Oh, seriously? 』

Somehow there seems to have been a convenient development in our circumstances.

I was safely able to confirm my status.
Name: Unknown

Wielder Registrant: None

Race: Intelligent Weapon

Attack:132 Mana: 200/200 Durability:100/100

Skills

Appraisal: Lv6, Self-Repair, Self-Evolving, Self-Modifying, Telekinesis, Telepathy, Wielder Status Small Boost, Wielder Recovery Small Boost, Skill Sharing, Magician.

Something like that, seems amazing.

Appraisal: Lv6: Information on what I see, is displayed.

Self-Repair: It repairs damage done to the weapon automatically. Unless it's been completely destroyed, reconstruction is possible.

Self-Evolution: Despite being a weapon, it has various evolutions.

Self-Modification: Alters oneself, and optimizes it.

Telekinesis: Using magic, one can manipulate an object without using my body.

Telepathy: Using magic, one can speak to another person's mind. Bypassing language, mutual understanding is possible.

Wielder Status Small Boost: All states of the wielder are increased by 5.

Wielder Recovery Small Boost: HP, MP, Stamina, and Magical Power recovery rate is boosted by 20%.

Skill Share: With the registered wielder, it's possible to give them a skill.

Magician: Feel the flow of magic. Proof of a Magician.
I might be really amazing? At the least, I'm not an ordinary weapon. I might have the ability to be classified as a rare or unique weapon. However, why is my name unknown? Is appraisal too low leveled or is it not from the original?

Well, I don't understand it too well, but it's fine for now.

Next is to check my appearance. My blade is a mysterious white metal that shines, with a blue line, and even at a first look it's very beautiful.

The muted hues of the elegant golden guard has a carving of a brave wolf on it, and a red oriental ribbon. On the handle, in red and white braid, a lattice pattern has been woven.

But that's self praise, but no matter how you look at it, it's not a ordinary mass-produced item. I think the sword is of considerable value. But, I don't know how strong an attack power of 132 is. The possibility that the sword is just some very expensive ornament isn't zero. However, because of the skills, I don't think that's so.

If I was, that would be the worst. If I was just some rich sword, I would plunge myself into a hearth and probably die (?).

However, it is a gorgeous sword. If this was an RPG, it would be the equivalent of the appearance of a mysterious figure.

『But, it's only a sword.』

In my mind, I made a sigh.
It doesn't meant that I was good looking when I was alive. That being said, I wasn't ugly enough to stand out. I was a minor character that was everywhere. So, I don't have any lingering attraction my body when I was alive. Rather, even after reincarnating, I didn't have any complaints. Instead, it was my wish to change.

That said, I wouldn't be a sword. Sword.

Now, I can't eat food or play games either. I can't even get rid of my virginity.

Is, is that so. If it's me the fact that I'm a sage is decided! Another life where I must live carrying this burden.

『……』

I despair. If I had arms and legs I would be throwing the down to the ground in sadness.

[T/N: Think orz]
I mean, the magician skill, is it that sort of thing? Which reminds me. Only that skill is a different color than the others, but it feels different… … Stop fucking with me! Don't laugh!

How long was I feeling depressed for, even I don't know. Was it 5 minutes or 1 hour? During the time that I was stunned, it seems it became something silly..

『Now because I'm a sword, do I need to worry about such a thing? Anyhow, I'm a sword.』

Besides, if I didn't reincarnate, I would have died on the spot. When thinking about it carefully, I might actually be quite lucky. Even though I died, I am still able to be conscious in this way.

That sounds right to me. Not everyone has the experience of becoming a sword. If I don't have fun, isn't that a failure?

If that's what I believe, I think I've made a breakthrough. Isn't that not escapism?

An unexpected second life. Well, a sword life. I might as well aim for the summit of sword. It might be better that way.

What's the top as a sword? Well, having someone use me is most important, I'm out of the question. For example. A hero? But the sword of a hero goes through many hardships. I would fight against the demon lord. Depending on the situation I might get broken. That means in the end I would need the teacher of a legendary blacksmith to repair me. Also, the hero might be a fool spouting about justice with hot defined muscles. Probably a handsome guy. The exact opposite of me. To be honest, I don't think we would get along well.

I might as well be used by a woman. It's best if she's pretty, nor should she be clumsy. That's several levels better than a muscle-headed hero.

After that, her skill with a sword. A brilliant swordsman, using me to mow down enemies, and becoming a hero. And that beloved sword is recorded inside textbooks several hundred years later.

… … Well, if it's just a dream it's easy if I'm just saying it. Do I need to make a major compromise? For now, let leave this plain.

I can't hear the man's voice at all, so I guess I'll leave.

[T/N: These are some of the notes the author had on his post.]
Content Correction
スキル共有：自身の持つスキルを、装備登録者と共有し、付与することができる。
→スキル共有：現在セットしているスキルを装備登録者と共有し、付与することができる。

Typo Fixes
趣味の悪い真っ赤なオーブンカーだった。
→趣味の悪い真っ赤なオープンカーだった

何せ、太陽と月が当時に出ている。
→何せ、太陽と月が同時に出ている

Editing Deletions
眼球の感覚はなく、俯瞰で上から見下ろすような、不思議な視覚だった。

Chapter 2: I can Fly

2 I Can Fly

Now, first let's check the surrounding area first.

First, I'm in what appears look like an old ruin. Without a roof in the vast empty plain, I stand alone. If it's seen from a distance, it might be mistaken for a larger water fountain.

As for me, the pedestal was set in the center, with this treasured sword stuck into it. What about that? Is it legendary sword that is given to those that reach it? Since, the surroundings don't feel like a dungeon.

Because of the pedestal it's not possible to turn around, I can't see anything behind me. But, as far as the eye can see, there weren't any tall trees, just bushes and shrubs. If I look closely, there's an occasional shadow. I wonder if it's an animal.

『Not a single person to be found.』

I can't move myself?

Wait a second, if I'm not mistaken, there should be a telekinetic skill. Maybe, I can move with it?

『Mun.』

Concentrate. Telekinesis Telekinesis.

Suddenly, I think I felt my body get lighter. There's a feeling that the sword slightly separated from the pedestal. The most important thing, is to imagine the sword flying through the air.

『Ooo! I floated!』

If I can imagine it, it's easy. After I escaped the pedestal, I could move free through the air.

『I can fly!』
[T/N: This is said in Engrish. Hence the title.]

There isn't much speed, but it's enough for now. I became clear that I could move on my own.

I tried moving around the area near the pedestal. As before, it looks like a ruin. I think the bricks are made of light brown blocks. Exposed to wind and rain for many years, the color has darkened, and moss covers patches here and there.

The area's diameter is 20 meters across.

『Who on Earth built this. I feel like it's the person who made me… … 』

This is very worn out, I wonder if I was also left here for so long?

Even if I said sword reincarnation, a sword can't be made from nothing. It should be expected that somebody made my body. Well, if my body didn't transform into a sword, but.

The maker would be the first person to use me, unless the

producer is dead then the possibility of that disappears.

But my body, the sword, is free of moss and dust. It's just like someone just put me here only yesterday.

I was thinking about various things while observing my surroundings, when a feeling of unease ran through my body.

『…… Huh?』

Somehow, tired… … The sensation of losing all my strength attacks the sword.

And, I fell.

『Seriously?』

I try to use telekinesis desperately, but it doesn't react at all. Height, I estimated 10 meters.

『Float! Please float!』

But, struggling was useless as I hit the ground with all of my might.

Gaii~i~i~in! called a great resounding metal sound.

『Eee… … Isn't it broken somewhere? Some cracks or』

I hurriedly looked at the status of my body, but everything seemed fine. Also, my body doesn't feel strange anywhere. To fall from that height and end up fine, this might be an amazing sword after all.

『But, why did I fall?』

A feeling like fatigue came to be, and I couldn't use telekinesis anymore.

In order to find the reason, I check my status.

I immediately understood the reason.

『You no longer possess any magic.』

It was Possessed Magic: 0/200. Probably, when using telekinesis, magic will be continually drained. The fatigue is probably caused by this. Even when the magic is cut off, my saving grace must be that we don't lose consciousness.

『I didn't fly for 5 minutes. It was probably around 3 minutes.』

For a moment I waited on the stone road. Then, my magic recovered slightly. It appears that it restores itself 1 per 1 minute. I restored it to 60 after waiting for an hour, and was able to use telekinesis once more.

『Alright, I float.』

I don't seem to have any problems. I checked my status as it is. My magic is decreasing rather intensely.

『While I use telekinesis, the consumption is 1 per 1 second? Then, after calculations it's about 200 for 3 minutes.』

Also it's unbearable to be slammed into the ground. I, before I lost all my magic, returned to the pedestal in a hurry. After I am embedded in the pedestal, it's strangely calming.

『Fuu. Would I be able to return to this.』

But, I was unskilled at movement and I understood that it would be dangerous. For a little while, I'll avoid leaving the pedestal's perimeter, and observe the plain.

When looking at the plain, a variety of creatures can be seen. Like the savannahs of Earth, contrary to my expectations it wasn't only mammals, there was something that looked exactly like a bug, and some guys without a definite shape.

For example, the ant-like thing I saw earlier had the shadow the size of a small dog.

The sword was fine. At least, it looks to me like there's no need to attack.

『Again, this isn't Earth.』

Moreover, if I look in the distance, there were shadows of even larger beasts. Although it's only a rough eye measurement, it looks to be around 10 meters. At least, I think it's that big.

『Is it the so-called evil beasts?』

I saw them, and there was 1 that worried me.

『With such a evil beast here, would it be possible for a human to reach here?』

Chapter 3: Encounter with Goblins!

Will make some edits later!

—SEPERATOR—
Chapter 3 – Encounter with goblins!
(Author note: Thank you for the bookmarks!)

Day 2 of resurrection.

Something has come.

Footsteps are approaching from behind the pedestal.
It's sounds like more than one also.

「Gehegehahu」
「Agiyagiyo」
「Gegiya!」

Conversation? Are they talking? I don't know the meaning, but it seems they are communicating.

Judging from the voice, I get the feeling that they are monkeys.

The presence gets closer.
Already right behind.

Okay, come here a little bit more.
Then i will know its form.

zazza

A little more.

ZAZZAZZA

One meter more.

ZAZZA – -pita

Damn it.
It stopped right behind me.

「giyagiyu」
「giyarugaga」
「giyanga?」
「guruhaa-」

What is it? What the hell are you saying? It sounds like a discussion…. ((Not 100% on the last part))

And, something, just touched my handle!
Clearly, the handle is grasped.
Although it is similar, I feel that it is too stiff to be the touch of a human hand.

It seems to be trying to remove me from the pedestal.

I felt a feeling of strange resistance as the form that did not understand who i was picked me up. ((*Needs to be checked later*))
How should i say it, the form should be confirmed… after it can be omitted separately… ((*Not 100%*))

Somehow, i resisted it using telekinesis.
The mystery partner puts more power in, after failing to remove me the first time.

But it is naive.
It is resisted with all my power.
Like hell i will let it pull me out.

「GYAGYA!」
「GYUGAGAGA….!」
「HAGAHAFU!」

In order to support their companion, the others begin shouting.
As i try to force myself in, the challenger beings to skirt around the pedestal to remove me .

「Giyaruga!」
「Gorugiyaru!」

Because of that, these guys worked their way perfecting into my sights.

Are you serious.

Green skin.
The brutal and more like a gorilla ugly face.
A head with short horns, wielding clubs and wearing furs. ((May just be furry))

So, the guy really was just a goblin.

Goblins tried to remove me.

Wait! wait, not Goblins! If i become a magic sword used by goblins it's over.
If it was a Goblin King at least, it was good. Even if its seen, how is it a Goblin Grunt?!

While resisting with telekinesis, i tried verifying the status of the two that entered my sight.

Race: Goblin: Evil: Demon Beast Lv5
Hp: 17 MP: 5 Physical Strength: 8 Endurance: 11 agility: 12 intelligence: 6 Magic: 3 dexterity: 7
Skills
Club technique: Lv1 , Digging: Lv2

Race: Goblin: Evil: Demon Beast Lv5
Hp: 20 MP: 2 Physical Strength: 9 Endurance: 12 agility: 10 intelligence: 5 Magic: 2 dexterity: 8

Skills
Swordplay: Lv1, Vigilance: Lv1, Poison resistance: Lv1

Ho-ho i see.
Even though the are from the same race they are subtly different.
Well, yea..
When the weapons are different, of course they will be different.

Another one gets impatient with me not coming out easily and has come around to the front so i appraised it.

Race: Goblin Leader: Evil: Demon Beast Lv2
Hp: 24 MP: 6 Physical Strength: 11 Endurance: 15 agility: 13 intelligence: 7 magic: 7 dexterity: 7
Skills
Swordplay :Lv1, Art of Survival :Lv1, Dismantling :Lv2, Leadership :Lv1

This guy is a Goblin Leader.
The level is low though, Is it a race effect or possibly evolution? It seems a little strong.
Although only a little bit really.

What to do.

There are no signs that they will leave.
In order to somehow remove me, this time it started hitting me.

Still when it finds that useless, it's time for a substitution.
Apparently, one was still in my blind spot and it grabbed onto me.
「Huuuuunnnnnn」I put power in desperately while making a painful voice!

Maximum power resistance.

When it realized it was impossible with its power the leader borrowed the goblin companions club and starts hitting more with that.

With its face dyed in anger it starts going wild with displeasure at not being able to remove me.

After all, it is a goblin.
It's behavior is too stupid.

While it was a struggle to the goblin, the pain and confusion caused it to kick the pedestal.
But the pedestal seems to be more solid than expected.
Holding onto its toe, it is jumping up and down comically.

Ku Ku Ku.
Serves him right.

The leader which was in my blind spot, in a state of anger hurled the club at one of the other goblins.
Hey wait a minute, aren't they friends?

What a thought, Goblin bastard. ((* Really hard line but i think its close*))
Surprisingly, it began to spit at me!
I can feel its dirty saliva on my blade.

Ah! Really -! I feel really bad! The humiliation.
Ok, i see, It's war.
I will do it!

The first target is this guy before my eyes.

I changed into a goblin leader, and i took aim at the goblin that knows swordplay.
I measure the timing and stop resisting with telekinesis.

SUPPON~ (Boing)

The sword which lost resistance suddenly is pulled up plainly by a goblin.
the goblin which used to much force lost its balance and fell on its

backside.

A fool.
it's full of openings!

Using telekinesis, i casually move the blade.
The blade plainly cut the windpipe of the defenseless goblin

I faked an accident, and one was defeated.

Not being able to understand the situation, The ones who stayed rushed up to him.
There! , I exploded in action using a ram attack.

Well, its a sword so the ram attack = Finisher.

As usual practice during a quarrel, I beat the strong guy first.
It is the goblin leader that was targeted.

Not expecting the sword to move automatically, of course he couldn't avoid my ram attack.

I look down at my sword blade which penetrated to the back through the stomach in utter amazement.

A sly trick.

I fall down to the ground just as is.
two more.

To my surprise , is it the first person? For murder, it didn't feel uncomfortable.
I wonder if its thanks to having the body of the sword.
The feel which stops a foe, tears it, and opens its interior also didn't feel unpleasant at all.
Rather the mood is in high spirits.

Hyahaha, It is meat! I can't help it.

However, About cutting down a partner, there was no feeling of evasion at all.
On the contrary, there is a strange sense of fulfilment.
It may be the feeling of satisfaction that came from being a sword.

I attacked one of them that turned his back and was going to start running, and buried it with a single blow.

The other one is scared and unable to stand up.
It was easy to bury it.

Race: Goblin: Evil: Demon beast Lv2
Hp: 12 MP: 9 Physical Strength: 7 Endurance: 11 agility: 10 intelligence: 6 magic: 3 dexterity: 8
Skills
Swordplay: Lv1『Kobold Killer』

But, Good for me.
Despite being a surprise attack, they were all killed in a single blow.
Attack power 132 is not for show.
Well, I don't know whether it is strong, but with goblins as the standard it seems to be.

However, there is one thing I'm concerned about.

「Was i just sparkling?」

When i dealt the fatal blow to the third or fourth goblin, the sword blade emitted light for a moment.
To tell the truth, When i killed the second one i felt like the air around me shone also.
I think it was my imagination though.
Maybe it wasn't just my imagination?

But i think i didn't shine when i killed the first one.
Well, there don't seem to be any abnormalities, but lets check『Status』first of all.

Name: Unknown
Race: Intelligence Weapon
Attack power: 132 Magic power: 166/200 Durability : 100/100
Skills
Appraisal: Lv6・Self-Recovery rank 1・Demon stone value 3/100・「Grade 10」, Self-modification, Telekinesis, Telepathic communication, Small rise in owner status, Small rise in owner recovery, Skill sharing, Magician
Set skill
Unavailable
Memory skill
Digging: Lv1〈New〉, Dismantling：Lv1〈New, Swordplay：Lv1〈New〉
Club technique: Lv1〈New〉,Leadership：Lv1〈New〉, Art of survival：Lv1〈New〉, Kobold Killer 〈New〉

What!? The items in my status increased.
The first thing i noticed is Self-Evolution.

Self-evolution <rank 1. Demon stone level 3/100, Grade 10> ((*This needs added above accidently wrote Self-recovery instead of evolution*))

Rank 1? will self-evolution include something like level?
And, there is a demon stone level.
With 3 / 100.
Ah! The sparkling three times.
Which is also the level on demon stone 3/100
Are they connected with each other? And Grade? I don't know what this means either.
Just, It was added after it, If I'm not mistaken it will be connected to the grade.

Did i get the skills when i flashed after killing the Goblins?
One of the beat goblins had it in the first place. Viligance is not visable so i think its certain. ((*Okay so this needs cleaned. He suddenly jumped to talking about the other skills and how he did not get the vigilance skill because the first goblin he killed had it and

he didn't flash when it died.*))

Did i absorb the goblins skills?

When i select a skill, Something like information resounded.

The current remaining memory is 10. ((* Okay so i think i got it, when i used Grade 10 instead of grade it is supposed to possibly be memory so he can only maybe only have 10 skills at a time?*))
Set a skill? 『Yes/No』

Of course its 『Yes』.
Then i entered into a skill choice screen.
I choose them from the top down.

Set Skill
Digging Lv1, Dismantling Lv1, Swordplay Lv1, Club Technique Lv1, Leadership Lv1, Art of Survival Lv1, Kobold Killer.
Memory Skills
None

It changed!
Could it be set? It isn't understood well.

When saying that it isn't understood well, it is a standard to shine. Why didn't i shine after the first kill? There is a hint, The level of Demon stones 3/100.

Demon Stone.
It is a word often heard in the stories involving summonings to a different world.
It is a crystal filled with magic that is in the bodies of Demon beasts. As i imagined, however.

When you refer to the different methods of killing the goblins one of them was cut in the throat while the others were pushed through.

Perhaps this is the difference.

「Hmm.
Try it out?」

I rushed over to the goblin i first deafeated.
I set the blade in the stiff who fell down to the fullest.

It is an act that degrades a corpse, but it is for the sake of inspection.
Forgive me.

The third time i seemed to get the desired reaction.
With a slight firm touch, the sword blade glittered.

When the demon stone is pierced as expected, it seems im able to absorb its magic or something.
The demon stone of a goblin seems to be in its stomach.

The demon stone levels increased to 4/100, in memory skill column, Vigilance and poison-resistance were added.

Paying attention , the skills level is different this time.
The Goblin leader had Dismantling Lv2 and one of the underlings had Digging Lv2
But the skill you can get seems to be Lv1
Somehow, it was like a level reset.

Is it possible to level up these skills?
Is it by using it? or should i take in a demon stone? Inspection was necessary in the future.

No matter how, I'll set the Vigilance and Poison-resistance skills.
.

Chapter 4: Skills, Magic Stones, and Me

(Demon stone = Magic stone) (I may flip flop them on accident but will try to keep it magic stone from now on) (Also i think i now understand the way the appraisal works Race, species, then if its a magic beast or an animal. So in the future i will try to make sure to use magic beast instead of demon beast as it usually ends up something like Goblin:Evil demon:Demon Beast when it would probably be more accurate to say Goblin:Demon:Magic Beast.)

I will work on these changes starting now. and i promise to try to start editing these after this post as this took forever. though it took about 2 hours less than chapter 3 and was 1300 more words or so. so i'm happy with that improvement in speed!

———————

Um.
The goblin corpses are a nuisance.
Having fallen in front of the pedestal, they are now constantly in sight.

I went out of the ruins while dragging the corpses using telekinesis.
It left traces of their blood on the ground, but its better than their dead bodies.

Then dug a hole to bury the dead.
(Now to dig a hole to bury the dead) I hope that the hole digging skill i just got works.

Un.
I can dig it.

It can be dug noisily with a “zakuzaku” by the thin sword blade.
(zakuzaku = crunching sound)
It seems like I’m even using a shovel.
However does the digging skill contribute to it, or is it simply thanks to telekinesis, could not be determined.
Probably, i want to think that there was some effect.

Well, it is good to have been able to collect skills while waiting for a suitable person to come.
Maybe that’s what i should aim to do while waiting. Become stronger as a magic sword.

And with that decided, i started to search immediately.
Using telekinesis, i jump around the ruins.
When my magic power decreases, i land and take a rest.

Because the surroundings are a plain, even if i go far away, I’m a little relieved to not lose sight of the pedestal.

The one found first was a little mouse with six legs.

『Promptly,
I appraised it.』

Name: Six-legged rat : animal Lv1
Hp:2
Mp: 0 Strength: 1 Endurance: 1 agility: 10 Int: 2 Magic: 0 Dexterity: 3. Skills
None

Weak.
Too Weak.
There isn’t even any skills too.
However, i am all right with just being able to absorb its magic stone.
The current magic stone level is 4/100
After gathering 96 more i expect that my rank will go up.

Please die for my growth.

I nose-dived at the mouse.
My attack easily hits the unsuspecting mouse.
The mouse split in two.

However, my body does not shine.

『Oh, why is that?』

Once again, the blade pierced the dead mouse.
But i still do not shine.
Was i not able to take in the magic stone by the present attack?

I opened up the body of the mouse carefully to investigate a cause.
It's quite a grotesque site, but i was saved thanks to being a sword.
It is gross, but i don't need to vomit.
I think whether I feel slightly sorry.
(Should i kill myself now.) As a result of the investigation, i could not find traces of a magic stone within the mouse's body.
Then, i noticed.
When i confirmed the status of this mouse, it was transcribed as an animal.
Isn't it that only demon's have a magic stone inside if them?
Even on earth, animals don't have such a thing inside themselves.

To inspect this theory, i have become the rats worst nightmare and attacked all that i could find.
The result, After killing three more, i could not find a magic stone.

Next i aim at Demon beasts.
Well, One was found already.
It's a large centipede approximately 50 centimeters long which has been eating the bodies of dead rats which i had killed.

Name: Giant Centipede : Demon bug: Demon Beast : Lv4
Hp : 18 MP : 7 Strength : 6 Endurance : 10 Agility : 14 Intelligence : 1

Magic : 6 Dexterity : 2
Skills
Vibration sensing : Lv1 , Climbing : Lv1 , Poison fang.

The family is a demon beast. ***(I feel dumb, sorry guys seems demon beast may have been magic beast, but I'm conflicted because they are still demons. so i might just keep calling them demon beasts)***
At first i pierced the head.
However, it struggles, it rampages.
A yellow liquid seeps out of its mouth, "BitanBitan" while thrashing around.
To put and end to it, i cut up the body this time.
Still the divided large centipede moves back and forth showing the vitality peculiar to an insect.

But soon its wriggling stopped. A〜, Its disgusting.

However, he was defeated.
My sword blade glittered when i cut through the area around the centipedes heart which had stopped moving.
As expected, the demon beast seemed to have a magic stone.

Skills gained by the way, was the vibration sensing :Lv1 Climbing: Lv1 and poison fang.
But i don't have fangs….
When i set it and used it, my MP decreased by 5, and a liquid delicately seeped out from my blade.
This is probably poison.
Oh, If it can be used, that's fine!

Next i tried to set climbing and set vibration sensing, but wasn't able to do it.

(Beyond the upper limit of the set skill)

I seem not to be able to employ all the skills that i got somehow or

other.

Status item, Self-evolution (rank 1 magic stone 5/100 memory 10)
With what is said, memory 10 seems like the number of skills which can be equipped.

(/tn note ***Yay that means i got it wrong but then got it right. haha ***)

To be sure
Digging : Lv1, Dismantling: Lv1, Warning: Lv1 Swordplay : Lv1 Club technique: Lv1 Leader: Lv1 Art of survival : Lv1 Climbing :Lv 1 Poison resistance : Lv1 Poison fang.

Are the 10 skills which are set.
When i tried removing Club technique and set vibration sensing, i was able to do it.
Well, i don't really need「club technique」, so let's go as is until i get a new skill.

Leader, art of survival, poisonous resistance, and climbing obviously don't to seem to be necessary for me.
I want to get a transformation skill

With that said it is time to resume the search.

The next discovery was 2 shadows that were walking ahead.
By the silhouette it seems like a bowlegged chimpanzee walking on two legs, Green Skin, it is those ugly fellows.

『A Goblin.
Furthermore, it's holding something in its hand』

Race: Goblin : Evil demon: Demon Beast: Lv2
HP: 14 MP: 2 Strength : 6 Endurance: 9 Agility: 10 Int: 5 Magic: 3 Dexterity: 6
Skills
Club Technique: Lv1 Digging: Lv1

Race: Goblin : Evil demon: Demon beast Lv3
HP:16 MP:3 Strength :7 Endurance :10 Agility :10 Int :5 Magic :2
Dexterity : 7
Skills
Throwing technique : Lv1 Hunting : Lv1

Race: Poison fang rat : Demon: Demon Beast Lv1
Current status: Dead
HP:0 MP: 3 Strength : 4 Endurance : 7 Agility : 14 Int :1 Magic : 4
Dexterity : 4
Skills
Warning: Lv1

Without status i would not be able to tell that the goblin on the right is slightly a higher level than the other, it's a good skill.
Well, they are weaker than the other 3 i killed earlier.
It seems i'll manage somehow.
Moreover their prey the poison rat was being held up.
That will be mine!

Using the shadow of a bush so as to not be noticed i approached.
The distance is about 2 meters.

First, its the higher leveled one.

『HYUUHHHAA! Hand over the magic stone!』

Un, I'm not really that bloodthirsty, i just wanted to try saying that!

DOS

With a dull sound, i pierced the goblin from behind.
There was no resistance at all.

I pull out of the goblin body immediately while noticing that the sword blade glitters.
And attacked the other stunned goblin.

With this, 2.
I was able to get throwing technique and hunting skills without a problem.

And the new demon.
But i looked puzzled at a strange point.
It doesn't have a neck.
No matter what i think it's strange.

『Poison fang rat? Though, Is there only Warning for a skill?』

Even if i think how, its strange that it doesn't have a poison fang in its skills.
It doesn't match the name.
For now, i tried turning up the rats lips with telekinesis.
Long Canine teeth.
And yellow liquid comes out from the points of its teeth.
is it venom?

Fumu.
Why is it? There is a skill such as Poison fang in a centipede, and not the rat that has poison fangs.

Even if i worry, there are to few hints.
If i hunt more demon beasts i will slowly gather information.
The skills seemed to have reacted immediately.

Thanks to vibration sensing and hunting that is.
I could sense some existence while moving subtly across the grass.
It does not seem to be so big.

I sneak around to the other side of a bush slowly.

Race: Scavengers (Birds) : Demon Bird: Demon Beast Lv5
HP:13 MP:5 Strength : 9 Endurance :11 Agility :15 Int :6 Magic :3 Dexterity : 7
Skills

Poison resistance : Lv1 , Digestion reinforcement.

A bird?
The sensing ability seems wonderful!
Here we'll carefully.

I skimmed the ground while flying to not make any sounds, careful to avoid grass, and attacked.

I cut its neck and the scavenger is soon lying on the ground.

『Phew.. Because it would be troublesome if it flew away,
I'm glad i was able to defeat it first.

』I stab into the Scavenger and absorb its magic stone.

I learned digestion reinforcement.
However, I don't need digestion reinforcement.
After all i have no digestive organs.
In the first place this skill could be remembered.
I admire the lack of constancy of self-evolution.

Well, is the next victim here?
A guy possessing the skills that i don't have is good if possible.

In that way i caught a strange shadow when looking for prey.

Something like a kite, floating at low altitude.
The movement speed isn't fast, but the movement is strange and irregular.
It looks like a flying green jellyfish.

Race: Air floater: Devil Plant: Demon Beast Lv5
HP: 14 MP:10 Strength : 6 Endurance : 11 Agility :4 Int :2 Magic :11 Dexterity : 5
Skills
Magic absorption : Lv1 Hawk eyes , Floatation.

I try getting closer, but it doesn't react.
Only, ten meters ahead of me, it still just floats.

Should i attack it? I decided to try to slash at it first!
I target is its core and the location with a design that looks like eyes, on its mushroom/jellyfish like body.

Whatever there is, i seem able to react, so i approach slowly.
And it was as soon as i approached about 2 meters away.
The air floater showed a movement more alert and agile than i could imagine.

『Ueee, I've got a bad feeling!』

About 10 tentacles have stretched towards me.
The red tentacles moves strangly reminding me of an angleworm or a snake.
Very creepy.

But, because i stopped for an instant to take in that horrible site, the tentacles wrapped around me.

『Ugh, Is my MP being absorbed?』

Via the tentacle, I understood that my MP was being siphoned off.
In addition to feeling terrible, it's dangerous.

I feverishly attempted to escape.
Fortunately, the strength of the tentacle was no bid deal, and it was possible to move just a little to cut myself out of its grasp.

『Hii～
That was close!』

When i checked my status, about 10 of my MP had been sucked away.
If i would have stayed being held, i wonder how it would have turned out.

That guy is dangerous.
I'm committed to kill it.

I decided to sneak over top of the air floater, when in place i charged with maximum velocity.
After all, as for the power and strength of the tentacles, they aren't that great.
I cut the tentacles that have come after me once again, skip and pierce its body.

With the feeling of having penetrated some hard object comes a shining sword blade.
The evidence that the magic stone which is a vital spot was destroyed.

With a "thud" the air floater deprived of the power fell to the ground.
Because it was floating by the power of a skill, that body which died lost buoyancy.

And a skill of Flotation and magic absorption is added to me.
They both seem like useful skills.
In particular, i tried floating and it was very compatible with telekinesis.

At any rate, even if nothing is done, it's a decent skill.
Of course it takes MP to use , but it takes far less than to float using only a telekinetic force.
When it's combined with telekinesis, I can fly 5 times longer.
If magic absorption is also combined, i could fly even longer.

In that way i noticed a certain thing when i inspected floating.

『Though an air floater had a skill like flotation if i remember right, there were no such skills of flight in the scavenger.
Though it is a demon beast of the bird type.』

It's the same as the poison fang rat.
The skills that should be there are not.

Is there a common point?
Poison fang and the flight skills to is there a reason?
Well, as for flight i don't know if i can obtain it since i don't have any wings.

Un? Wait a moment, If it's wingless, can't a flight skill be used?
After all is flight not a skill?

For example there are no skills such as walking or breathing in a goblin.
And it's the same as it's natural for a bird to fly.
That's the proper function in which not magic, but a body has a skill.
The magic and the skills aren't related there.

So when i think so, as for the fang of the poison fang rat, couldn't it have simply been a mechanism of the body using something like a poison gland that gives venom to the fangs?
It's the same as the poisonous snakes which were also on earth.

On the contrary, the Poison Fang the giant centipede used was poison which was created by magic, it's probably a fantasy-like special ability.

『Because swordplay is an acquired one which was trained and obtained, can it also be absorbed as a skill? 』

There are still many things i do not understand about my body.
More inspections seem to be necessary.

The hawk eye skill was also considerably good.
It's a skill which gives the ability to see things in a bird's eye view.
(T/N The author calls the skill Falcon/Hawk eye but it seems it is actually meant less literally such as being birds eye, so its really just

a 3rd person POV skill.)
Fortunately, the whole environment could be seen now.
It's the feeling as if the camera is now affixed to a fan that can finally move freely, instead of before where it was as if i was looking through a camera fixed to a handle.
Well, it isn't possible to separate very far from the body.

【Alright! Time to hunt even more various kinds!】

By the way, the status of the present sword is

Name: Unknown
Race: Intelligence weapon
Attack power : 132 Magic Power 200/200 Durability 100/100
Skills
Appraisal Lv6, Self- recovery, self- evolution, (Rank 1, Magic stone level 9/100, memory: 10) self modification, telekinesis, telepathy, small rise in owner status, small rise in owner recovery, skills sharing, magic
Set skills
Digging Lv1, Warning Lv1, Sword play Lv1, Hunting Lv1, Vibration sensing Lv1 , Throwing art Lv1, Magic absorption Lv1, Birds eye view, Poison fang, Floating.
Memory skill
Dismantling Lv1, Club Technique Lv1 , Leader lv1, art of Survival Lv1, poison resistance Lv1, Kobold Killer, Digestion reinforcement.

Modification point.
(These are the changes the author made.) I added "the eyes of the hawk" (Birds eye view as i called it) skill to the air floater and added the following parts to the sentence.

(T/N Copy paste cause its not important and im lazy) It was the thing which the effect of the eyes skill of the hawk which stayed was considerably good for. It's a skill that this skill be things to see in bird's eye view. You can now see almost all around. Was a point of view like a camera fixed to the hilt up to now, but now fans sense o

Le like camera move freely, like looking at things.
END

Chapter 5: Rank Up!

I have the next few days off so i may try to do another chapter since i wasn't able to on Friday, but if not just expect another one around this time next week!

Enjoy!

Chapter 5- Rank up!
『OraOra! What color is your magic stone!』

It is now the 5th day since i have been reincarnated as a sword.
It was just after i had slain the 12th demon beast since morning that this happened.

【Self-evolution has activated.
Self-evolution points acquired : 10】

Immediately i check my status.

Self-evolution【rank 2, Magic stone value 102/300, Memory 12 points 10】

The magic stone value has exceeded 100

「Oh, isn't it early?」

When checking it this morning, the magic stone value should have only been at 80.

「Hmmm, The only difference since yesterday is that i moved to another hunting ground.」

Because i understood that i could fight without a problem, i moved my monster hunting grounds further from the ruins.

The enemies seem to become stronger as i leave the ruins, A「Crash Boar」with a hammer like nose, An「Iron Ant」which is a demon ant that can even crush rocks, Bigger and badder monsters appear frequently prowling the area.

They are also higher levels, possess more skills, and their magic stones are bigger.

『So, Size of the magic stone..... 』
『Perhaps, the magic stone from strong demons, has a value that isn't 1?』

Yeah maybe.
In the first place, the magic stone of「Crash Boar」of two meters, and the magic stone from the small fry goblin can't be worth the same value.

『Will i confirm it a little in detail?』

My status has also improved.
Moreover, it improved more than you can imagine.

Attack power : 162 Magic power : 300 Endurance: 200

『Oh! this fellow is happy, If i keep absorbing the magic stones, becoming the world's strongest sword is not just a dream! I'm also increasing the number of memories quietly. 』

Ok, Lets aim for the counter stop! *(TN counter stop is the highest level a skill can reach)*

『And... What is point 10 of the self-evolution?』

When leveling up, i seemed to get it.
I try to examine there in detail.

Oh? Some various items appeared.
Is it a list of skills?

A list of possible skill acquisition.
Attack power small rise, Durability value small rise, Telekinesis small rise, Sense talk small rise, Magic power small rise, Memory increase (small), skill level up, demon beast knowledge, plant knowledge, mineral knowledge.

Ooo? Though there are various kinds, is it that? Is it a bonus skill-like fellow?

I pick small increase in Magic Power, for the time being.

【Use 5 points, to acquire magic power small rise? Yes/No 】

Can i get it really? It's YES of course!

【You have acquired Magic Power small rise】

Then the self-evolution points decreased to 5, and magic power small rise was added to the skill list.
Furthermore, my MP went up by 100!
Self-evolution sensei is great~! What next? I want everything, but i don't have enough points.

This time, i try to choose the skill level up.
As for this, surprisingly it seemed to be able to make a memory skill i possessed at present increase in level.
But, i seem to have to choose a skill separately.

When i tried choosing fencing it required 2 points.
Everything was tried but in the end everything was 2 points to level up.
However, poison fang seemed to take 5 points.

Floating also required 5 points. What is the difference, i wonder if poison fang and floating are 5 points because they do not have a level.

Umu. i am at a loss in various ways, but I'll choose Attack power

small rise here.
It would be the most effective against the demon animals.

And, after attack power small rise was added my Attack Power rose by 50.
Good.
With this, I came to look forward to increasing the magic stones value.

『”Yoshi!”, A motivation came! I’ll hunt demons around here, hunt and hunt exhaustively! 』

So I’ve decided, let’s take action at once!
I glide triumphantly, through the plains.
Looking for monsters from the sky and striking them down on discovery.

Chapter 6: Goblin・Immediately・Decapitated!

Ensig:
This is my first Translation of any kind. Please treat it well, and point out any mistakes I've made! I didn't write this, once again, I just translated it! Enjoy!

※※※

『Magic Stone get—!』

「*shiyugiyagiya—!*」

『As expected, dens are delicious!』

Currently, I'm in a Goblin den.

But I wasn't able to find it on my own; I followed an underling Goblin and found it.

I just let it swim about for a bit, and it led me here all on its own. With that, I can clear them out all at once. What a great strategy, right?

I had followed the Goblin by flying at low altitude, with my footwork being was completely silent. Well, I don't have any feet, but that's how it was.

I must have been stalking him for… Probably close to an hour? The Goblin had started dancing abruptly at points, and became engrossed with the sight of ants walking in procession, so most of my time was completely wasted.

I didn't even observe the Goblin for a long time, but its actions were quite irritating. Because it advanced so slowly, I had contemplated

killing it many times.

『Beheading that Gob left a deep impression on me.』

I'd like to praise myself for enduring for as long as I did.

And so, I've continued to assassinate Goblins since then.

I should have gotten rid of more than 30 already, but an uproar has yet to occur. Have they really not noticed me yet?

『*Oh*, this is quite a wide passage.』

I continue my advance. Around the corner's a large room; it's about 20 meters in length, but the height is a little less than 10 meters.

Inside, crowded together, there're Goblins, Goblins, and more Goblins. There must be more than 50 of them.

1 on 1, they're nothing but small fry, but in these numbers they're a considerable threat. I can easily defeat even medium-sized monsters, but… That's the power of a group for you.

Later I learned that the Threat Level spikes when Demonic Beasts that can use group tactics make a horde.

The Threat Level a lone Goblin possesses is 'G'. However, it becomes 'F' when there are 10 and 'E' when there're more than 100.

By the way, Threat Level 'E' is the equivalent of a Lesser Basilisk or an Ogre. It's at the level that entire villages are essentially doomed.

And, at the back of the room sat an eye-catching existence. Many wounds are engraved onto its face, and its build is close to twice that of the other Goblins. Its appearance fits the word "Veteran" to a tee. It's dressed in Iron Armor, with a huge Sword propped up to the side; both were likely taken from Adventurers.

『**Ohh!** Bingo!』

Race : Goblin King : Evil Beast : Demonic Beast Lv.21

HP : 87 MP : 26 STR : 47 END : 39 AGI : 26 INT : 17 MGC : 16 DE

Skills:
Coercion : Lv1, Sword Techniques : Lv2, Sword Arts : Lv4, Leadership : L

Equipment:
Broken Crude-Iron Long Sword, Cracked Crude-Iron Armor, Leather Shi

Its Status is incomparable to the other Goblins. It truly is the Goblin King.

『Perhaps they're aware of an intruder, but chose to defend the King?』

While looking at its Status, I trembled in delight. Excitement, like one you would get standing before an all-you-can-eat buffet, welled up.

Moreover, I've confirmed that the other guys are the best of their kind. There're Soldiers, Archers, Knights, Mages, Thieves, Warriors, Monks, Healers, and Shamans, most of which had unconfirmed existences until now.

『Let's get to it!』

I thoroughly enhance my power. Telekinesis' strength is capable of being changed depending on the mental image, and it's possible to generate tremendous acceleration with Telekinesis via magic.

Making use of this, I name this move **The Telekenesis Catapult Attack**! *Kukuku*, the first to taste it is you, Goblin King!

Dashing around the corner, I aim at the Goblin King and release my

power. I went from 0 to max speed near instantly, and in no time I arrived at the King.

Telekinesis is completely silent, and so the Goblin King wasn't able to react at all.

With that, I pierced right into its face.

DOBON! [2]

I, who flew at the head of the Goblin King, became stuck in the wall.

My power is frightening even to myself. It's surpassed the level of a catapult; it's already at the level of a cannon.

With a slight delay, the Goblin King's body slowly fell, and for an instant, silence dominated the room.

After that instant, shrieks and angry shouts resonate within the small space from the Goblins.

『*GiyaoOOOoo!*』
『***GuRuuuAAAa!***』
『*Go**RURUU**uaaa!*』

One guy panicked and, flustered, ran up to the body of the King and roared. There certainly are many reactions.

Then, besides the King, the guy who must be something like the King's Adjutant shouts out something amidst the chaos. After that, 5 Goblins turn towards the passage and start running.

The Goblins, who don't think that a sword can move of its own volition, seem to think that somebody threw a sword from the depths of the passage.

Thinking so, all of the Goblins turned their eyes to the passage.

Idiots! There'll be no one there even if you all look that way!

Smoothly, I slid out of the wall. With that momentum, I collided with the Adjutant.

Or rather, it's no exaggeration to say I specifically targeted this guy.

『Give me your Magic Skills!』

As a tactical goal I aimed at the King, but as far as Goblins are concerned the one I wanted to defeat the most would have to be this Goblin Mage. I was dying for this guy's Skills ever since I saw them.

Race : Goblin Mage : Evil Beast: Demonic Beast Lv.9

HP : 27 MP : 36 STR : 14 END : 15 AGI : 20 INT : 16 MGC : 19 DEX : 12

Skills:
Minerology : Lv1, Leadership : Lv1, Staff Arts : Lv2, Quarterstaff Arts : Lv

Equipment:
Broken Oak Staff, Fur Robe

『*Fuhahahahahaha!* With this, I can use magic!』

It's magic in a different world! One of the yearnings of the otakus! There's no way I wouldn't want to use it!

That very same magic has just fallen into my hands! There's no helping it if I'm a little excited!

『But before trying Magic, I'll finish up with these guys!』

From there, it was a one sided slaughter.

The increased Morale brought about by the King disappeared alongside him, so the Goblins quickly started panicking and fell into disorder. The Mage, which had the ability to quell the confusion,

had disappeared as well.

Top of their species or not, they're no match when they're no longer acting as a group. Normal Goblins can't even deal damage to me, so long as it isn't a critical.

And so, the Goblins that lost the power of the group became nothing but a disorderly crowd. Or rather, due to their close proximity, their numbers only ended up obstructing their movements, so they might have become even less of a threat.

『Alright, this guy's the last Archer!』

As for the other guys who could attack over long distances, I cleared them all up. Afterwards, to me who couldn't be attacked due to staying close to the ceiling, the crowd of EXP Values could only look up.

I simply defeated Goblins while flying around the outskirts of the herd, taking precedence on the ones who tried to run away to keep any from escaping. A considerable amount of Goblins still escaped, but 30 of them were still hunted down in the end.

The improvement of my Skill Levels surprised me. When I absorbed the power of the Goblins' Magic Stones Sword Arts and Club Arts improved in succession.

It seems that when I have the same Skill as my enemy, absorbing their Magic Stone increases Skill Proficiency. Or perhaps I simply absorb the accumulated Level of the enemy's Skills? Well, either way, the fact that my Skills can be improved is pleasant information.

『*Fuhahahahaha!* Give me the experience!』

Today's Status!:

Name : Unknown

Race : Intelligent Weapon

ATK: 212 MP: 400/400 Durability: 200/200 [3]

Skills:
Appraisal : Lv6, Self-Repair, Self-Evolution 〈Rank 2・Magic Stone Level

Set Skills:
Stealth : Lv1, Evasion ↑ : Lv1, Vigilance : Lv1, Sword Arts : Lv1, Impact Re

Memory Skills:
Digging : Lv1, Dismantling : Lv1, Leg Strength ↑ : Lv1, Archery : Lv1, Club

NEW Skills:
Coercion : Lv1, Transportation : Lv1, Recovery Magic : Lv1, Singing : Lv1,

---

[1] The previous translators used the literal translations of these Status values (excluding HP and MP, which were already using the English Alphabet), but I've put them into Game-like format for space conservation.
For those who want to know what the literal translations SHOULD be: STR = Physical Strength, END = Physical Fitness, AGI = Agility, INT = Intelligence, MGC = Magic Power, DEX = Dexterity. I'll be using the shortened Game-like terms from now on when they're used under the context of Stats, but I'll use their proper names if they fit better. Either way, the two ways of saying them are synonymous.

[2] This is the sound for 'Breaking'.

[3] Once again, I'll be changing them to more game-like values. ATK = Attack Power, MP = "Held Magic Power". Durability is Durability.

Now some Notes regarding Skill Names:

- War Staff Arts → Quarterstaff Arts as per Faceman's suggestion
- Narcotic Fang → Anesthetic Fang as per greedxviii's suggestion
- Transportation (運搬, translated as-is, but it relates to Carriages)
- Sword Dancing (曲剣術, it's essentially 'Musical Sword Arts'. 'Sword Dancing' was the first thing that came to mind, so there it is)
- Instantaneous Movement (瞬発 is 'Instantaneous'. Just that one word. Breaking the characters down to しゅんぱつ results in the same thing, but two of my Machines mentioned Movement, so I'll go with that until proven otherwise)
- Mental Resistance (精神耐性, as-is, but Mental could also be "Soul". I'll keep it as Mental for now, but if someone who knew Japanese could clarify, that'd be great)
- Club Arts (棒術, 'Stick-fighting Arts'. It mentioned Cudgels, so I'm pretty sure that's where the other TL's got Club from. Because of that, I'm rolling with it. If it's wrong, tell me)

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 7: Night Flight

Ensig:
I think I've gotten better at TL'ing, even though this is only my second time doing it now.

I take creative privileges during/after TL'ing (mainly grammatical stuff and making sentences flow better) but there are still some lines I'm not 100% sure on, so I'd be thankful if anyone would add suggestions to the areas I've footnoted.

Ah, one last thing… The MC uses some pretty strong language, I've found. So if you don't like swears… Cry, I guess?

Now then, onto the Chapter!

※※※

Um… Which way is the Pedestal?

I eliminated the entire nest of Goblins and emerged triumphant, but…

The darkness of night has already wrapped around the surrounding area, so I've lost my sense of direction.

『Well, there's the silver Moon over there, so…?』

I have no idea. I don't know what direction the Moon rises and, of course, I don't know which direction the Sun rises either. I've already become a lost child.

『Should I give up going home today…?』

To me, the Pedestal has been certified as my home, more or less. I'd like to return there every day, if possible. In addition, sitting inside

of the Pedestal somehow gives me peace of mind.

However, it seems that it's impossible to return.

Well, it can't be helped, so let's treat ourselves to some late-night hunting. Until now, I had been hesitant to go out at night in the Plains, but I don't have a choice.

With that, I took to the air and searched for Demonic Beasts while maintaining a height where the ground is just barely in view. I'm not only at this height to search for Demonic Beasts, but also to easily reach the ground in case of a surprise attack from above.

『Flying high in the sky, I can see quite far into the distance. It's quite nice.』

I haven't seen one yet, but being attacked by some sort of transcendent Dragon would be the worst. So, not with just my eyes, I'm remaining vigilant with all five senses. Well, five sense-like things, given the fact that I don't have a body.

Anyways, it seems that the strength of Demonic Beasts doesn't spike up just because of the night. Rather, it seems that they've grown weaker under the cover of darkness.

Even if it takes time to find them, combat's settled in an instant.

『It's good, it's good! Using Echolocation to detect them! Convenient Skills are great!』 [1]

For Monsters of the night, exploration Skills are quite substantial.

Especially Echolocation. With this Skill, I can grasp the topography of the area as well as Demonic Beasts, so I'm able to search the surroundings with considerable detail.

『Amassing Magic Stones like this, I wonder if I'll be able to Rank up?』

Yeah, I was getting caught up in the moment. I was so successful in killing the nocturnal Demonic Beasts that, in my excitement, I didn't pay attention to my surroundings. I had single-mindedly focused only on chasing prey.

「**GYarU*RUroOOOo*!**」

Suddenly, such a roar resounded within my ears. I looked up to find the source, and found a Demonic Beast whose size far surpassed that of a Giant Bat approaching from above.

『Impossible! There was no reaction from Echolocation!』

Shortly before I had used Echolocation, but there was absolutely no response.

「*Gyagyaoo!*」
『*Ohtto!*』 [2]

At extremely-high speed, the huge shadow passes by right beside me.

It's like a plane! [3]

『***Nuah!***』

A sound similar to a high-pitched metallic shriek comes from my blade with just a grazing touch. The impact is terrific, with all trees within about 10 meters being blown away. But that's not all. With just that slight contact, checking my Status, my Durability was shaved off by 30.

『Shit! What an unpleasant surprise!』

Are surprise attacks your main[4]? No thanks. I'm just a sword. Aren't I a good sword? Even if I am, I'm just a sword! A sword!

Even so, I'll still feel offended when I'm struck! [5]

I was sent flying in surprise, but I managed to stabilize my posture in the air. I wasn't able to get a good look at my assailant, however.

It's Fast! That's all I can say.

Other than that, I figured out why it wasn't caught with Echolocation.

Although it hasn't even been five seconds since it collided with this master of the shadows, it's already far off into the distance. He's way too fast.

I don't always use Echolocation, but when I do, it usually takes about a minute to examine the area using the rebounding sound waves. If something has that much speed approaches from more than 30 meters away, then it takes about 5 seconds for the signal to reach me.

「*Gyoooo!*」

『Damn, here it comes again!』

I try using Appraisal at the last second while barely dodging him.

Race : Lesser Wyvern : Deteriorated Sub-Dragon : Demonic Beast Lv.21

HP : 223 MP : 95 STR : 95 END : 122 AGI : 98 INT : 142 MGC : 63 DE

Skills:
Intimidation : Lv2, Stealth : Lv2, Fire Resistance : Lv3, Airflow Manipulati

Strong! It's a Wyvern: a degradation of the dragon species — it's just a degradation, but it's still the strongest Demonic Beast I've seen so far! It's got a lot of Skills, too!

I avoided a direct hit because I devoted myself to evasion, but the

wind pressure alone made my whole body shake as a fierce gust of wind assaulted me.

I've made light of this world. I've never had a hard fight, but when it comes to Dragons, is there room for fighting halfheartedly? I don't think so.

『Damn it!』

My opponent might be able to move even faster than this.

Isn't this an impossible game? No, wait. If I give up, then it really will be the end. It's still too early to give up. When the time comes, I'll be able to escape to the ground somehow. Maybe. But before that, let's take on this challenge. Or rather, it's unlikely that I'll be able to get away if I don't do something. I'll have to depend on counterattacks, even if all I can do is damage him a little.

So, let's try to counter his charge. I speed up a bit in reverse, as to make an attempt to run at the same time. Survival is my priority.

Like that, I wait for the rush of the Wyvern. It seems that because it's so fast, turning to charge once again takes a bit of time. While circling widely, it turns this way. The fact that I don't have to worry about being rushed consecutively is my only saving grace in this situation.

『It's coming!』
「*Gurugyaooo!*」

My aim is its Abdomen, which appears to be softer than the rest of its body. I'll just barely dodge by escaping below, and then raise my edge skywards to cut its stomach. I'm unsure whether it'll go well, but I'll try it anyways. If it's wounded, then I can take that opportunity to escape.

Rapidly, its huge body approaches, but I was unexpectedly calm. Certainly, it's faster than things like Cars and Motorcycles, but

there's no need to be overwhelmed because it's simply coming at me in a straight line. My plan… Will it work?

『*Sooi!*』
「**Guraa!**」

Yeah. I failed. In the middle of a rush, this guy dodged the full brunt of my swing… Still, that strike left a deeper impression than I thought it would.

Even though I intended to calm myself down, fear seemed to linger in my subconscious regardless. Even so, the edge that I raised cut the Wyvern's stomach a little. To its huge body, I made a scratch. When I found that I had given it a wound, I became genuinely happy.

「***GURUruRUwu!***」
『Wait, didn't that make it super mad?!』

Even though I dealt so little damage, it seems that its anger is at its MAX! Didn't this tactic have a boomerang effect?! While making its turn, its vicious eyes were glaring, completely fixed on me.

『Isn't this slightly bad?』

And it rushed once again. I had resolved myself — to dodge this guy.

『*Guaa!*』
「***GYAGYAUUUOOOO!***」
『Damn it! This damn lizard! — Even though it was only struck once!』

Because I understood the balance of defense and offense I aimed to counter, but the Wyvern immediately performed a feat of acrobatics using its tail, manipulating its centrifugal force. With that, I received a direct hit from the talons of its hind leg.

I didn't *just* take the attack, however. When I was hit by its claw I

bounced directly in front of the fellow's eye, so I made the split-second decision to jab myself into it. Well, as a result, the tip of my blade has been broken. The fragments should still be within the Wyvern's right eye. Serves you right!

「GIIGIIIAAAAAAAA!」

It twisted and writhed in agony while flying (although its flights seems quite disturbed).

『Apart from that, am I alright?』

Only about ⅔ of my blade is left. The rest splendidly snapped off. Naturally, there's no pain, but am I really alright?

There doesn't seem to be any problem flying. To begin with, I fly using Telekinesis and Floating so my flight has nothing to do with air resistance. With that, even with a change in shape there doesn't seem to be any changes.

Magical Power doesn't seem to be leaking out from the damage, either.

… Surprisingly, I'm alright. How much will Self-Repair be able to regenerate, I wonder. It'd be unpleasant to remain in this state.

When I thought such, the broken part of my blade began to glow slightly. Then, although it's only a couple of millimeters, it started to bulge. This is probably the start of restoration.

Phew. Self-Repair seems to be working properly.

『Shit, that damn Lizard! How dare it do this to me!』

Anger immediately boiled up after I confirmed my own safety. To put my beautiful white blade into this tragic state… Inexcusable!

It seemed that the Wyvern didn't plan on letting its damage slide

either, so with my mind distorted by hatred I recklessly threw myself up at the Wyvern. Still, even with my reason completely gone, I can only chase it endlessly.

Its movements have become poor with its injury, but it's still faster than me.

『Even so, I'll do it!』

I'll cut him up until he's nothing but a pile of severed bones! If my body's a sword, then it's no longer restricted with the same limits that I'm used to! And, if so, then there must be a way!

First, I slow down a little to change the course of the Wyvern. That way, it would be misled into thinking that I was going to escape. And, just as expected, the Lizard-bastard threw itself in a straight line.

What an idiot! It took the bait!

I change my route at once, accelerating towards the wing of the Wyvern. The Lizard-bastard was headed completely straight, so it couldn't dodge even if it wanted to.

Then, with both of us accelerating with tremendous momentum, we collide. As a result, my blade almost completely disappears. The remaining amount would be about . But it was worth it as the Lesser Wyvern's left wing was cut at the base, causing it to fall to the ground.

Through my baiting, my altitude ended up exceeding 30 meters. As one would expect, not even a Sub-Dragon could fall from this height without a scratch.

Upon approaching the Lesser Wyvern that fell to the ground, its neck is bent in a strange direction with a large quantity of blood and vomit pouring from its mouth. The body's still convulsing, but it's only a matter of time before it meets its end.

『*Fu*— Looks like I somehow won.』

That was dangerous. If I received just a little more damage I would have been done for. My remaining Durability is 23. I really did just barely survive.

『Well, it's good that I defeated it…… But what should be done about its Magic Stone?』

The Magic Stone needs to be recovered, but retrieving it from the Lizard-bastard will be difficult for me who's lost most of my blade. There must be a way, right?

Watching the recovery of Self-Repair, it seems like it'll take quite some time to make a full recovery. It's possible that it won't be repaired overnight either.

Meanwhile, on this plain crawling with starved Demonic Beasts, I can't help but think that the Lesser Wyvern's corpse isn't exactly 'safe'.

『Well, I'll manage somehow……』

As for recovery via Self-Repair, it seems that the ooze coming out is bound to the broken section.

『*Nununu…!*』

I've got to put some fighting spirit into it! By doing so, won't the speed of the ooze squeezing out increase!? — Yeah, what stupid things are you thinking, me?

『Oh?』

I have the feeling that the brightness of my blade increased, somehow. Is this, by any chance…… *Ohh*. The restoration speed of the blade rose remarkably. Seriously?

Is it possible that the even the effects of auto-recovery Skills increase when it coincides with the user's intentions? Alongside that increase, my MP is decreasing at an amazing speed: $1_{MP/sec}$. But it's worth it at this point, as my blade will be completely repaired at the expense of only ~200 MP.

『It was a struggle, but I gained some useful knowledge.』

That, and a Magic Stone. These are the fruits of struggling with all my might. Its Magic Stone is comparable to 20 regular ones.

The Lesser Wyvern's Magic Stone was located at the base of its neck. I had attempted to aim at it in the middle of combat, too.

『Well, let's take a rest for today in the bushes.』

---

[1] Rather than "Convenient Skills are great!" it's actually "Convenient Skills are huge!" — huge as in quantity. I'm thinking he means that 'they play a huge part', thus the translation. 便利スキルが大量だ！

[2] It's actually "うおっと" — which is "uh-oh" or "oops" or even "sorry". You've probably heard it in anime, as it's pronounced "Uotto". Because it's more of a sound that escapes his lips (if he had any lips), I've kept it as a hyperbole.

[3] The literal translation is "galley", as in a ship, but... That's not very fitting, I'd think. I'll change it if someone has a better suggestion. ギャリィッ！

[4] Machines are giving 'The surprise attack was the main? I'm good.', so I'm thinking that the MC is using gaming lingo. お前も不意打ちがメインだって？　俺はいいんだよ

[5] I think the MC's making the joke that even though he's a sword, he doesn't like colliding with things (in case of a dual, in other

words).

※※※

Ensig:
Some of you may have noticed that in the Appraisal of the Lesser Wyvern it's categorized as a 'Deteriorated Sub-Dragon' — not 'Evil' like the Goblins and such have been up until this point. Because of this, I'm thinking the format is actually like the following:

Race: (Race Name) : (Racial Derivation) : (Racial Classification) Lv.##

If that's the case, I might make changes to the Goblin derivation in the future, but I'll have to see more monsters to be sure.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 8: My first time using Magic

Ensig:
Just so you guys are aware, I'm also considering translating another work titled: Demon Noble Girl ~Tale of a Gentle Demon~

Or, rather than 'considering' I should say 'I've already started'. The chapters are a bit longer than Sword-bro chapters, so I'm working on them bit by bit — but Sword-bro is much easier to translate.

It must have something to do with the fact that this writing style doesn't have a lot of long sentences, so it's easier on the machines... Well, anyways.

※※※

It's the day after I killed the Lesser Wyvern.

I rose to the sky and looked for the Pedestal; because it's daytime, I can see farther, so I thought I'd have better luck finding it.

My suspicion turned out to be true, as I can see the pedestal a considerable distance away. It was terrible of me to leave it so far behind, so I planned to return to the pedestal immediately.

『*Uryaa—!*』

With that, I flew to the pedestal in great haste. I encountered Demonic Beasts along the way, but I pierced through all of their Magic Stones immediately; they were delicious. For me, who experienced heated combat with the Wyvern last night, lower leveled Demonic Beasts are no longer a match.

The farther away from the Pedestal, the stronger the Demonic Beasts seem to become. Conversely, the Demonic Beasts are weaker the more one approaches the Pedestal.

Surely, this is caused by the strange Magic which spreads out of the Pedestal. Perhaps it was set that way as a sort of Barrier. Because I had been using MP a lot recently, I was able to get that sort of feeling from the area. I don't know who made such a thing, though. I wonder if it was my creator?

Anyways, I managed to arrive before even one hour passed thanks to charging straight with all my power. In the end, moving during the day is the most efficient.

Although I was only gone for one night, I missed this place. It feels comfortable to be in the presence of the Barrier.

『*Uoo—!* Pedestal! I've returned!』

With that, I dive into the pedestal.

supo [1]

Mm, with this I can relax. It's very calming inside of the Pedestal. After all, this place is my home. This Pedestal is a space of healing.

『*Fuu*. At last I can take a breath〜』

For a while, I spend time simply looking up at the clouds. Ahh, I feel at ease.

Taking breaks is quite enjoyable.

『*Fufufufu*..... ***A—hahahaha!*** At last! I'm no longer just a simple sword, Jo**!』[2]

Yes, because I have Magic.

During yesterday's Goblin extermination, I obtained the Fire Magic Skill from a Goblin Mage. ***THE*** long-awaited Magic.

『Fire Magic set.』

Preparations complete.

I focus my consciousness. I've used Skills many times, so I should be able to use Magic one way or another. That's what I thought, but —

『Nothing's happening.』

I just don't understand how to use Magic. After letting out a groan, nothing happened. That's all.

『Why? Is it a lack of Magic Power? No, that Goblin Mage didn't seem to have more than me… For the time being, maybe I should try setting all the Mage's Skills.』

After setting Minerology, Leadership, Staff Arts, Quarterstaff Arts, Fire Magic, MGC ↑ Low, and Magic Manipulation, I prayed for success. With that, a number of images appeared.

Fire・Arrow and Fire・Shield? Then, I'll choose Fire・Arrow.

If it's going to be my first spell, it has to be Attack Magic!

『Ohh, the image of the incantation appeared.』

I try reading the incantation, which floated into my mind, out loud. As I did so, I could feel Magic Power drain from my blade.

『Fire・Arrow—!』

shuon [3]

An arrow made out of flame appeared in the air in response to my shout.

『Oh? *Ohhh?*』

The finished flame arrow then flies like a genuine arrow into the distance. The spell was a success.

『*A—hahaha!* Success!』

The Fire Arrow's power was only to the degree that it burnt some ground. It it's like that, then it would be 100 times better to just rush in myself — *but it's different*. The important thing is that I was able to use **Magic** all on my own.

『Then, onto the next! Fire・Shield!』

A small buckler of flame is produced.

『Hmm. But how strong is it?』

I use Telekinesis to throw a stone. I'll test it using power only to that degree. It's thrown at about 130$_{km/hour}$, I'd guess? The Shield properly prevents it. After that I throw the 2nd, then the 3rd.

The Shield managed to prevent the third shot, then disappeared. It might be able to prevent arrows, but it's doubtful it would be effective against swords or axes.

Well, that's the extent of its usefulness, it seems.

After that, I played with magic for a short while. The MP consumption is ~5 for both spells, so if I were to improve them continuous use should be possible.

『Fire・Arrow! Fire・Arrow! *Hyahho*—!』

I calmed down only after ~30 minutes passed. A couple of shrubs looked like they caught on fire, but that might just be my imagination.

『*Fuu*. That reminds me, I still have to properly inspect these Skills.』

I'll only be setting the Skills needed to use Magic, so first I remove any Skills that seem unrelated.

The ones remaining were: Staff Arts, Quarterstaff Arts, Fire Magic, MGC ↑ Low, and Magic Manipulation.

『These two don't seem that related.』

I removed Staff Arts and Quarterstaff Arts.

『Fire・Arrow!』

It seemed to activate without a problem. Next, I should exclude MGC ↑ Low.

Again, I could still use Magic. Next, Magic Manipulation. At that point, I only had it and Fire Magic set.

『It can't be used.』

I set Magic Manipulation once again.

『Fire・Arrow.』

shuon

It seems that Magic Manipulation is required to use Magic. I'll have to make sure it's set from now on; that way, I won't have to be worried if I get another skill with a similar name to Fire Magic.

『Maybe I should also set Vigor Manipulation? Magic Manipulation is needed for Magic, so I wonder what Vigor Manipulation is used for?』

The Skills that I received from the previous owner of Vigor Manipulation — the Goblin King — are: Coercion, Sword Techniques, Sword Arts, Leadership, Raise Morale, Shield Arts, Provocation, Throwing, Ambition, and Vigor Manipulation.

It it Sword Arts? No, there's no new techniques related to the Sword. — What's this?

After inspecting Sword Techniques, I found that it allowed usage of techniques with Vigor Manipulation. The techniques seem to be MP-consuming abilities for Warriors to use.

There's Double ・Slash, which creates a twin attack and Heavy ・Slash, which is something like a certain-kill technique. These are also quite interesting.

『Shall I try them immediately?』

If I have stronger techniques, then I can fight against stronger Demonic Beasts. The benefits will also apply to regular hunting.

『Goblin hunting has already been completed, so maybe I should go on a little excursion?』

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[1] Essentially the sound of sliding into something — in this case, it's Sword-bro sliding into the Pedestal.

[2] Reference to Dio from Jojo's Bizarre Adventure. Thanks to R1CK_D0M for pointing that out!

[3] The sound of something being generated, I think.

Chapter 9: Fierce Battle! The Menace of Area 5

A couple of notes:

1. This chapter is *huuuuuge* compared to the other ones, with over 3,000 words, as compared to the previous chapters' less-than-2,000.
2. Second, I've changed "Skill Points" within Self-Evolution to plain old "Points" in this chapter and all previous ones. That's because the points only apply to Self-Evolution.
3. Third, I changed the classification of Goblins and their ilk from "Evil" to "Evil Beasts", because of a certain description in this chapter.

That's all, read on!

※※※

It's the been 10 days since I started wielding Magic.

My day-to-day life hasn't changed; I spent my time striking fear into the hearts of Demonic Beasts by slaughtering them, and absorbed enough Magic Stones for Self-Evolution's to reach rank 5.

I've also gained a large number of Skills, as well as Skill Proficiency. The hideout of Gourmet Orcs, which is a subspecies of Orc, was especially delicious as they had a great number of Techniques and Magic Skills.

As for their racial characteristics, most of them had high level of Cooking and Dismantling skills, both going up to about Lv5. It's laughable, but despite being a Skill that I've had no opportunity to use, the only Skill with a level higher than those two has become Sword Arts.

80% of the Plains have been dominated, so now it's something akin to my personal garden.

『Alright, shall I go?』

My next objective is to explore outside of the Plains. It's a place that I named 'Area 5' without permission.

Somehow or another, the strength of the Demonic Beasts isn't distributed evenly around here. The farther away from the Pedestal's Barrier in the Plains, the stronger the Demonic Beasts. As for the area around the Pedestal, only small fries like Goblins appear — so I've designated that area as Area 1. As the number increases, so too does the strength of the surrounding Demonic Beasts.

And for now, Area 5 is set as the maximum difficulty.

Outside of Area 5 is completely uncharted territory, but from what I can see the Plains become a Forest. Occasionally, I can catch a glimpse of Demonic Beasts that move between the trees, but they don't seem much different from the small fries from Areas 1 and 2. There certainly don't seem to be any that're stronger than the Demonic Beasts of Area 5.

Well, as for the question of why Demonic Beasts of Area 5 don't just go there, I figure I'll be able to understand once I've reached there.

『There're no small fries in sight.』

As the area number increases on the Plains, the number of Demonic Beasts tend to decrease. Instead, the Area widens, and the number of large Demonic Beasts increases. In Area 4, which was my main battlefield until yesterday, I was only able to hunt about 20 of them per day. But, because the Magic Stones' values exceed 15 each, the gain is overwhelmingly higher than simply hunting hundreds of Goblins.

Ah, by the way, this is my current Status:

Name：Unknown
Race：Intelligent Weapon

ATK：314　MP：1000/1000　Durability：800/800

Skills:
Appraisal：Lv6, High-Speed Self-Repair, Self-Evolution〈Rank 5・Magic S

In regards to Skills I've changed them a lot, so I honestly can't grasp all of them. Among them there're a lot of Skills that can't even be used, too.

As for ones that I use all the time, Sword Arts has a Skill Lv. Up bonus, so its level is particularly high.

Initially it didn't do much, but once its Level exceeded 3 it started showing overwhelming effects. As it increases one's ability to manipulate a sword, what do you think happens if you *are* a sword? I became able to attack my opponent's weak points with deadly accuracy.

In addition, my ability to elude the attacks of giant Demonic Beasts also increased. Because I have the body of a sword, it's no exaggeration to say that this Skill rose both my Offense and Defense.

『Oh, a Demonic Beast!』

Race：Goblin：Evil Beast：Demonic Beast Lv3

HP：10　MP：2　STR：7　END：9　AGI：8　INT：4　MGC：2　DEX：7

Skills:
Cooking：Lv1, Vigilance：Lv1, Poison Resistance：Lv1

Description: An evil being born of a fragment of the Evil God, which was

Magic Stone Position : Center of the body: Solar Plexus.

I discovered a Goblin walking near the end of Area 2. The Goblins' nest was annihilated, but you could still see them occasionally.

As for the explanation provided under the rest of its Status, it's the effect of Demonic Beast Knowledge, which I gained using Self-Evolution Points. It's capable of being used in tandem with Appraisal.

Thanks to that, battles have become much easier. Why? Because the weak point of Demonic Beasts, their Magic Stone, becomes clear. With that, I'm able to turn my initial attack into a certain-kill.

『But seriously, remove on sight...? They're treated just like cockroaches.』

This is the first time I've met a Goblin after gaining Demonic Beast Knowledge, but I'm getting the feeling that they're more evil than I initially thought. Well, that could simply be because I'm human-like. I was originally a human, and so I've decided to side with the humans at least. I'll just turn these guys into EXP from now on.

In that way, I move while hunting Demonic Beasts and viewing their descriptions.

『*Hyaho—!*』

I had come up with a great movement method the other day.

1 : Use Telekinesis at maximum firepower, and blast off.
2 : Entrust my descent to free-falling.
3 : Repeat.

I had thought of it while using the Telekinesis Catapult Attack. I name it: The Telekinesis Catapult Movement Method. Because the only expenditure occurs at the start, I can save a considerable amount of MP.

Repeating the Telekinesis Catapult Movement Method, I arrived at Area 4 before noon. The Demonic Beasts in Area 4 are quite formidable. The amount of opponents I can defeat with one attack decreases, and a fair amount of Durability is decreased by attacks from the other side. To compare, my Durability doesn't decrease by the attacks of Goblins at all, but attacks from the Demonic Beasts in this Area can decrease it by over 100 if I'm hit directly.

And finally, while hunting Demonic Beasts along the way, I reached Area 5.

『Well, what kind of Demonic Beasts will appear in this Area?』

I'm making use of multiple exploration Skills to look for the Demonic Beasts. Finding the other party and landing a preemptive strike is very important while hunting, after all. In some cases, they can be defeated without any damage on my side.

『However, there don't seem to be any Demonic Beasts.』

I looked around for an hour, but I wasn't able to discover any Demonic Beasts at all.

Are there perhaps absolutely no Demonic Beasts here? I had named this place Area 5, but was it possible that Area 4 actually had the highest difficulty?

As I thought so I got a little impatient, but I was able to discover one at the edge of the area. There was a giant reaction in terms of Magical Power. Undoubtedly, it was a Demonic Beast. Moreover, it was one of unprecedented strength.

『*Uwaa—!* What a strong magic power reaction!』

Until now, the Demonic Beast with the strongest Magic Power was a Flare Leopard which was in Area 4; it was a fire-attribute Demonic Beast with a length of ~7-8 meters. I could handle its Fire Magic, but its Magic Stone had a value of 47, you know? It was pretty

brutal.

This reaction, however, exceeds it.

『Let's gain a bit of altitude.』

I fly upwards as to not be discovered on the ground. Using Skills, I concealed my Magic Power as well. Even though the level of each of my individual Skills are low, when combining the effects of multiple similar Skills their effect raises. For the me right now, I'd be difficult to detect if the opponent's Perception Skills wasn't strong.

『I found it! But… What is it? A puddle?』

On the Plains, a lone Puddle(?) can be seen. It looks to be ~5 meters in diameter?

But, from that Puddle, I can sense a strong Magic Power. Hmm… Is there something inside of it?

Should I approach it?

At first glance, there doesn't seem to be anything inside of the Puddle.

『I should get a bit closer, and then Appraise it.』

As one would expect, Appraisal won't work with the current altitude difference. I have to get within ~20 meters.

And so, I approached the Puddle.

Burururn

The surface of the water shook.

The wind? No, the wind wouldn't be able to shake the entire thing. It seems like some form of gelatin?

Bururururururun

The Puddle shook even more, and then overflowed like a fountain, making it give off the illusion of it exploding. Looking closely, it's not water at all.

『*Ugee*[1]! It's a huge Slime!』

It seems that what I thought was a puddle was actually an extremely consolidated Slime. And so, I reacted by taking a fighting stance.

The Slime's full length exceeded 15 meters. Its surface if Blue, but within its interior, it's mixed with Gold. As for its figure, it looks like a huge Steamed Bun made out of water.

This is the first time I've seen a Slime this big. Ordinary Slimes are, at best, about 1 meter long. Even the higher ranked ones don't exceed 2 meters.

Furthermore, from that body of over 15 meters contains transcendant-level Magic Power. It's... A bit overwhelming.

『Well, first I should use Appraisal.』

Race : Slime Lord : Viscous Spirit : Demonic Beast

HP : 620 MP : 822 STR : 539 END : 727 AGI : 308 INT : 54 MGC : 668

Skills:
Evasion : Lv3, Evasion ↑ : Lv4, Fire Resistance : Lv6, Mimicry : Lv6, Absorp

Description: The strongest of the Slime species. It preys on the surroundi

Magic Stone Position : The Center of its body.

Uwa—. This is a pretty dangerous Demonic Beast, huh? Infinite growth..... This fellow before my eyes has a description that makes

it seem that it's incredibly dangerous, but I had already expected that.

Physical Attack Resistance and a Strongly Acidic Viscous Body? If I charge in badly, I'll definitely be dissolved.

And Viscous Body Techniques is also a pretty nasty Skill. It's a general term for attacks using a liquid-like body, but the other Slimes I've seen only had it at about Lv4. That level was also excellent, as it allowed them to morph parts of their bodies to use whip-like attacks — but this guy's is at Lv7.

『I'm getting the feeling that a direct hit is a death flag[2].』

So, what should I do? Attack with Magic? My most effective one is Fire Magic, but because the Slime Lord has Flame Resistance it'll be useless. As for other types of Magic, there don't seem to be any that'd be effective.

The Slime Lord grows its body, but it still can't reach me who's at a raised altitude. However, it seems to have identified me as food due to its high Magic Perception.

Perhaps I could steamroll it with Skills? So long as I whittle away at it, there'll eventually be a decline in its use of Instant Regeneration. With my battle experience against other Slimes, I know that their attacks using their acidic bodies will give subtle damage, even though I'm a sword. This fellow's body is incredibly acidic, so I don't want to have to attack it too many times.

『So, —*Uo!*』

The body of the Slime Lord bends slowly while its body quivers, and, like a gun, it shoots a piece of its own body like a bullet. A bullet made out of strong acid.

『Not good—!』

Using a Skill to get a grasp of the projectile's location, I dodge it somehow. But now that it's attacked, I can't remain passive. I don't have confidence that I can evade attacks more intense than that one.

『Alright, fine. I'll make this a brief battle. I'll come at you with a single certain-kill attack.』

I set Skills related to high-speed mobility and destructive offensive-power, and throw together a combination that'll allow the strongest Telekinesis Catapult Attack I can use.

But that's not all.

『I know your habits!』

Using a Skill called Phantom Body, I create an illusion that looks just like me. This guy's great, as it emits Magic Power similar to that of the main body, making it difficult to distinguish from the real thing. In addition, when it takes a physical attack, its internal Magic Power bursts, generating a light shock wave. Its power is only to the degree of an adult hitting with all their might, but it's effective as a surprise.

With this, my preparations are complete.

『Phantom, charge!』

Without a sound, the phantom rushes straight at the Slime. In response, the Slime Lord extends a tentacle. With that, the Phantom was struck easily. But that's fine.

It surely felt the impact that the Phantom gave off, so the Slime Lord extended its tentacle once again to intercept it. That's important, as while it's defending, it transports its Magic Stone to the opposite side of the attack. Because its body is completely liquid-like, it can freely move the Magic Stone within its body.

But that's just what I was aiming for. After all, that means that the

slime covering the Magic Stone is thin on its back.

『Even in evolution, habits don't change!』

I begin funneling MP like jet fuel, and burst forward.

In the end, it was nothing more than a simple dash. However, I put my heart and soul into that dash.

『For this attack alone, I intend to give it a name. I'll name it: The Heavenly Instant-Kill Technique[3]!』

Because the tension was high I cried out my idea, but if I was calm, it would definitely be rejected. Probably.

All sound disappeared for an instant. That's the evidence of moving above the speed of sound.

ZUDOOOOOooooooooo!!

A mighty roaring echoed throughout the Plains. If I wasn't a sword and had keen ears, I would have fainted in agony.

The Slime Lord couldn't react, and a large hole was opened within its body. Of course, its Magic Stone was annihilated as well.

BURuburuBURUBu

And with that, the Slime Lord stopped moving, and spread out along the ground. It resulted in the dubious spectacle of some mystery-mucous covering the ground.

『Fuu, it seems I won..... Still, that was quite dangerous.』

Nearly half of my blade was dissolved by the Slime's skin. If I was taken into him, I would have disappeared in an instant. It was the correct choice to deal with it in a single blow.

〈 The effects of Self-Evolution have been activated 〉
〈 Self-Evolution Points acquired: 30 〉

Surprisingly, it seems that the value of its Magic Stone was 150. As expected of an advanced Demonic Beast.

Name : Unknown
Race : Intelligent Weapon

ATK : 352 MP : 1300/1300 Durability : 1100/1100

Skills:
Appraisal : Lv6, High-Speed Self Repair, Self-Evolution〈Rank 6・Magic S

Now then, shall I also inspect the Skills that I've obtained here? There're some Skills that seem considerably useful.

Here's the first jab[4]. I can save the main Skills for later, so first I'll use the Softening Skill which seems quite interesting.

『Ohh. I became limp.』

It doesn't seem to be strong because its level is low, but my blade definitely became limp. When I shake my body, my blade resounds with a **myonmyon**[5]. Interesting.

As for Mimicry and Hardening, I can't see any effects. For Instant Regeneration, because I have High-Speed Self-Repair, I wonder if it'll do anything.

Well, those Skills were only appetizers; now let's try the main Skills.

『Dimensional Storage: Activate』

It's the so-called Item Box Skill.

A stone disappears right before my eyes. When I use it again, a stone appears out of thin air.

When I put a bunch of stones and grass inside, a list of stored objects is displayed in my mind. How convenient.

『Now, to test its capacity.』

If the amount's extremely little, I'll be quite disappointed. First, I'll put a bunch of items in to look for the limit.

『Let's start with this guy.』

I try to store the corpse of the Slime Lord, which was left unattended. Its mass is quite substantial; I think it'd be able to fill about half of a 25 meter swimming pool.

However, I was able to store it in an instant, and it seems that there's still space remaining.

『As expected of an advanced Demonic Beast's Skill.』

It doesn't mean much to me, but I think it'll be useful for whoever ends up equipping me. For transporting stuff like food, for example.

By the way, once Self-Evolution is activated, my MP and Durability immediately recover. Thanks to that, I'm completely unhurt. Mental fatigue, however, isn't reduced.

『I'm tired, let's hunt in low Areas for the rest of the day.』

---

[1] "Ugee" is essentially "Yuck" うげぇ！

[2] I don't have to explain what flags are, right?

[3] 瞬天殺法
Thanks to **Randonperson** for the naming suggestion!

[4] Sword-bro is meaning the boxing jab here, so I think he's

making the point of “weakening the number of Skills he’s obtained from the Slime Lord” here. まずはジャブ。

[5] I’m going to go out on a limb and guess that *myonmyon* is a hyperbole for the sound a metal sheet would make if you shook it. ミョンミョン

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 10: Let's go to Area 5

Ensig:
I managed to surprise myself with this Translation.

How, you ask? Because I was actually able to understand a reference inside of it! References usually have a "○" in the middle of them — the equivalent of using an asterisk (*) — so because I don't understand Japanese at all, I have to figure out references through the sounds of the surrounding characters and the almighty being that is Google.

I don't want to spoil what the ○ was in, so all I'm going to say is… Thank goodness I watched a certain Death Battle a while back.

※※※

Today, too, I'll be exploring Area 5.

Because I fought the Slime Lord in the South yesterday, I'll search a different direction today.

In the East area I discovered a huge Snake exceeding 20 meters in length: a Doppel Snake[1]. The thickness of its body was like that of a Drum.

As its name suggested it had a Skill called Fission Creation, which allows the user to create a body double which can imitate their original Skills, abilities, and so on.

When I defeated the first Doppelgänger and it disappeared like a phantom, I was really surprised. However, because its tactics revolved around using its double from a safe distance, the main body wasn't actually that strong.

Its fighting power didn't really exceed that of a Demonic Beast from

Area 4. Once I found the body lurking underground, the fight was finished in an instant.

I used the Fission Creation Skill immediately after obtaining it, but……

「This isn't the body of a Sword……」
『It's me from when I was living as a human.』

And so, the doppelgänger created by Fission Creation imitated a Human. At the same time, my thoughts were transmitted simultaneously, so I was able to move my Sword and Doppelgänger body at the same time.

「Oh? If I do this, won't I not need someone to equip me?」
『Seriously? But what's the strength of my alter ego?』

Wouldn't equipping myself using my double be pretty good?

Or so I thought, but it didn't go very well.

First of all, Fission Creation has a time limit. Currently, the limit's 5 minutes. Second, the Doppelgänger is incredibly weak. With the exception of INT, its stats all had an average of 5 — weaker than a Goblin's.

Moreover, its Skills were reduced. The Doppelgänger has the same Skills as my main body, but all of its Skill Levels were 1.

Like that, it can't be used. I don't know what would happen if I leveled up the Skill, but the Doppel Snake's Fission Creation Skill was Lv9, which made its Doppelgänger body stronger than the main body, so…

Anyways, the other Skills I obtained from the snake like Molting, Heat Perception, and Scale Regeneration couldn't be used, so there was only one other Skill that would be useful. It's a Skill superior to Poison Fang called Sovereign Toxic Fang[2]. It also had the Deadly

Poison Fang Skill, but this Skill's effects are above it.

For now, the Doppel Snake was placed into storage. Dimensional Storage still wasn't full after holding that giant snake. Its capacity is greater than expected.

In the afternoon, I headed towards the Northern area. Of course, I hunted down any Demonic Beasts along the way; after defeating them they were immediately stored.

After conquering the East, I understood that within the North, East, South and West there would only be one big Boss. I guess they would be like Area Bosses? Regardless, the only Demonic Beasts that I found strong were the Slime Lord and the Doppel Snake; everything else probably just served as food for them.

So, the next area boss I would face was the one in the North.

『The Area Bosses always have strong Skills, so I'm looking forward to it.』

What was there was the smallest of the Area Bosses. A Turtle Demonic Beast; its Magic Power wasn't at all inferior to that of the other Area Bosses.

Its overall length was only about 5 meters, and from its shining black shell 10 tubes stick out. At the peak, a thick gun-barrel protruded.

『A Blast Tortoise.』

As it so happens, I've defeated a lower ranked version of this fellow. It was a Demonic Beast called a Cannon Tortoise, which absorbed the surrounding air from tubes and shot it from its compressed barrel.

「GOOOooooOooo*!*」

It's a type of Demonic Beast whose chosen form of combat is long-range bombardment; its detection range seems quite wide as well. Already, its eyes have become fixed upon me.

「**Goo!**」

BOBOBOU!

Compressed air bullets are shot consecutively. I didn't think that it would be possible to release those continuously. For Canon Tortoises, it could only shoot once, and left no shots in reserve. Indeed, this is a superior race.

『Whoa there!』

Air bullets continued to come flying at high speed. I took a trajectory to evade, but……

BOBON!

『Nua!』

An air bullet unexpectedly bursts, and I'm crushed by the exploding air bullets from all directions. The explosions themselves almost the equivalent of being hit directly. Is this due to the aftermath[3]? Or, more importantly, being able to remotely explode them remotely… What an amazing power!

Bonn!

『*Gu!* Dangerous, dangerous!』

While my escape routes were sealed, there's also the threat of air bullets in pursuit. With a direct hit, 400 durability is shaved off. In addition, I can see more being fired.

By the way, thanks to Airflow Vision I can see the incoming colorless and transparent air bullets. If I didn't have that, it would have been

difficult to avoid anything.

For the time being, I need to break through. I descended using Telekinesis Catapult to avoid an air bullet, and zigzagged at maximum speed while continuing to dodge its endless barrage.

『Don't get cocky!』

I occasionally received damage, but I was gradually approaching the Tortoise.

『I've got you!』

If I get this close, it's my win. My blade plunges into the exposed neck of the turtle — not.

『Ah?! Don't run away!』

With a speed impossible to imagine from the slow movements of a Tortoise, it retracts its neck and legs. I attack the shell out of vexation, but it's only cut a little. If I attack multiple times, I might be able to break through but……

『As if I'd permit such a thing!』

BOBOboBOboboBO!

The Tortoise who had retracted its neck began to rotate at high-speed. Really, it's just like Ga**ra[4]. And, like that, it scatters air bullets indiscriminately.

Precisely because it's not directly aimed at me, it's difficult to read, and thus difficult to avoid.

All around me air rends the ground, but even if I take distance there would still be air bullets in the sky.

I try to move to the blind spot directly above it, but because of the

perception Skills that the tortoise possesses it simply distributes the air bullets above itself.

『*Ohtto!* Dangerous!』

If the top is hopeless, then perhaps the bottom would be a better choice. It might not be able to attack on its underside, after all.

I play with my Status a bit while dodging the air bullets fired off by the Tortoise, and manage to make some changes without a problem due to the Thought Division Skill.

Using my leftover Self-Evolution Points, I achieve Soil Magic Lv4; the level that it becomes legitimately usable.

This fellow will be on the receiving end of this Skill, as I've become able to tunnel using the abilities I've obtained.

『—Dig dug!』 [5]

I dive into the hole dug with magic; the ending of the tunnel is directly below the Tortoise.

『Dig dug! Dig dug!』

But that's not all. Casting the magic consecutively, I hollow out holes at the feet of the Tortoise. The ground, which couldn't tolerate the weight of the Tortoise, sinks in, causing its big body to be swallowed into the ground.

『All according to plan!』

Furthermore, because I had dug the holes at an angle, after a single rotation the Tortoise ends up falling upside down.

When it struggles to get up, I sandwich it in place using Soil Magic.

Kukuku. You won't be able to escape in this state.

Then, The Tortoise takes its neck and legs out, only to attempt to return back inside. But didn't miss that chance.

The fastest blow that struck down even the Slime Lord resulted in an explosion of the head of the Tortoise.

In the end, it's nothing more than a Tortoise. It wasn't a match against me. [6]

『Victory!』

However, that was quite dangerous. Once again I'm reminded that Area 5 isn't to be taken lightly.

By piercing into the Tortoise's shell through the head-portion's opening, the Magic Stone on the side of its heart was acquired one way or another.

Of course, I also stored the Blast Tortoise itself; the storage still wasn't filled.

『Now there's one less Magic Skill remaining. Let's head back for now.』

The search of Area 5's Western region will be put off until tomorrow.

I still want to inspect the Skills I got from the Tortoise for now.

After returning to the Pedestal, I try out the Skills; compressing the air as well as firing two air bullets seems possible. It went well, because the two Skills seem useful.

Air Bullet Discharge strengthens the surrounding air, thus 'casting[7]' the bullet. It seemed that through sucking air into the inside of its shell, the Blast Tortoise gained the ability to fire continuously. As for me, if I use Airflow Manipulation in conjunction with Wind Magic, repeated shots also seems possible.

Air Compression can be used to compress air; at first it looks plain, but it's actually quite interesting.

For example, I can add strength to the bullet fired from Air Bullet Discharge, or can make a compressed wall of air around myself as a shield. It could be said that alone it's weak, but when used with multiple Skills it becomes quite strong.

『I'm happy that there're a bunch of good Skills, but〜 in order to utilize them, more training is required.』

Strong Skills are pretty hard to master.

---

[1] Doppel as in "doppelgänger". In Japanese it's literally "Dopper" though. ドッペル・スネイクだ

[2] The name of the Skill is actually "King/Sovereign" "Poison Fang" — but because it was a bit too similar I changed it to "Toxic" — because that seems superior to "Poison". The Author didn't elaborate on the effects of Sovereign Toxic Fang, so it's best to assume it's just a stronger version of other Poison Fang derivations.

[3] There's a joke here that doesn't come through in translation, but "aftermath" can also be read as "waves that remain after the wind has subsided" 余波でこの威力かよ

[4] Reference to Gamera, a japanese-turtle-alien-thing that can suck its limbs in and fly around like a UFO. Google it.

[5] Yeah. It really is just as it appears. ディグダグ

[6] This line is something along the lines of "It didn't match up to my expectations", or more accurately "it couldn't rival my flash". The line I gave it fits the same intentions, so I'll use it. 俺様の閃きには叶わなかったな。

[7] ‘Casting’ is referring to ‘Bullet Casting’

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 11: Departure for Lunch

Ensig:
Wheew~

This chapter's a good one, so I'll keep it brief, alriiight~?

So, first thing, about Gentle Demon — I'm still doin' that. But, because I translate Sword Bro with a higher priority, there're days that I don't get around to translating it. Otherwise, I'd probably have released at least 1 Chapter — or even 2 — since I mentioned I'd work on it.
That being the case, I figured that I'd translate it to 100% before doing another Sword-bro chapter after completing the Chapter 10 of Sword-bro... But then this chapter happened.

And now I just want to translate more Sword-bro.

Dang it, right~?

So, while Gentle Demon'll be put on the back burner for a while longer, I *am* in the process of translating it. It'll be out. Eventually. Probably.

※※※

『I won〜!』

Raising my edge towards the sky, I raise my shout of victory.

I'm laying down on the ground after fighting the strongest boss of Area 5.

The Tyrant Saber. [1] To be honest, I thought I was going to lose.

With a build exceeding 10 meters, it moved like the wind and could

use three-dimensional movement combined with aerial jumps. Its magic-enhanced fangs and claws were completely brutal, shaving off only a little less than 500 Durability just by being grazed.

Moreover, its fur was coated in Magic Power — but even without that, its muscles were hard enough to resist my blade anyways.

In the end, I used up 15 Self-Evolution Points on Sovereign Toxic Fang, so my victory was decided at the end of a long war. With Appraisal, I had found out that its Poison Resistance was low, which is why I used it. If that wasn't the case, I would have had no choice but to escape.

But, somehow the Saber's movements had dulled due to the poison, so I continued to attack. When I finally defeated it, 4 hours had passed since the fight began.

However, the outcome was worth the risk. To start with: its Skills.

I obtained Vibration Impact, as well as a Skill called Vibration Fang Skill, both of which are frighteningly amazing.

The vibration from Vibration Impact is transmitted to the target when they're struck, which results in a strike that's capable of destroying your opponent from the inside.

Vibration Fang allows its user to amplify the sharpness of their fangs via ultra-high vibration; it's the so-called Super-Vibration Blade Skill. Because both Skills had great compatibility with me, my offensive ability jumped up explosively.

But that's not all. Combining Air Bullet Discharge with Vibration Impact resulted in a new Skill called Vibrating Bullet Discharge. It's a fiendish attack which allows the same vibration effects to occur at long distance.

Another boon from the fight was that my Self-Evolution Skill was raised by a rank. Using Magic Stones from the Area Bosses granted

values more than 150 each; that, combined with hunting in Area 4, resulted in enough to rank up.

Name : Unknown

Race : Intelligent Weapon

ATK : 392 MP : 1650/1650 Durability : 1450/1450

Skills:
Appraisal : Lv6, High-Speed Self-Repair, Self-Evolution〈Rank 7・Magic S

Also, thanks to the rank up, I made a complete recovery.

『I still have time tonight.』

In front of me stood the mysterious forest.

It's the forest-area which opens up to surround Area 5. The plan was to survey it earlier, but……

『So, what should I do?』

I've sustained no damage, and I have time, too. Shall I go?

『I've already come this far, and I could return without doing anything, too.』[2]

And so, I decided to explore the area outside.

—Just in case, I didn't immediately rush in, and instead decided to watch for any inhabitants by making full use of Night Vision and Heat Detection.

『M—mm, there's nothing……?』

There seem to be a ton of wild animals, but there're almost no Demonic Beasts — other than Goblins, of course. But it would be

excessive to forcibly chase them around and kill those.

『Are the only Demonic Beasts around here small fry?』

For Area 6, I was prepared to enjoy victories over Divine level Demonic Beasts.

But this place is comparable to Area 1. To be honest, it's quite a letdown.

『Ah—, as expected, I feel that my hopes have been shattered～.』

In spite of carefully taking a stance which was set to flee at any time, it seems that choosing to observe the woods from the outside is making me out to be nothing more than a fool.

『That's enough. I'll go in at once.』

I jump into the forest using Telekinesis Catapult with a **babyun** [3].

With that, I enjoy a panoramic view of the woods from above. There're still no signs of any big Demonic Beasts.

『Ah, discovered a clearing.』

In the middle of the forest, there's an open field where the trees don't grow. I change direction with Telekinesis and drop towards that space.

And stuck into the ground.

『All right, landing success!』

When using the Telekinesis Catapult Movement Method my body's at an angle, so making a landing sometimes ends up with me crashing onto the ground on the side of my blade. Such a landing deals hardly any damage to me, but I'd still count it as a failure.

A “success” would be piercing the ground with my blade, like this time. Somehow, it makes me feel better.

It’s easy to make a proper landing if I use Telekinesis just before landing, but generally I entrust it to gravity and drop down to make a game out of the success/failure count from landing. It’s one of my few pleasantries other than hunting.

With the ground conveying its texture through my blade, I get the feeling that this land is something like a swamp. The feel is wet and sticky like clay.

『Then, another jump…… Hm?』

My body doesn’t move. Is the quality of the clay-like soil higher than I thought? I invoke Telekinesis a bit stronger this time.

『I-Impossible…… Telekinesis isn’t working?』

Or, to be exact, the moment I activate it, it’s forcibly terminated. The best solution in times like these is to put my all into it. I accumulate Magic Power, and load it all into Telekinesis.

pos[4]

A light sound seems to escape. And then, nothing happens.

『Impossible.』

The Magic which I used was absorbed into the ground. All the MP I had poured into it had been lost in an instant.

『Well, if that’s how it is…』

I try to use a Skill. My strategy is to use Vibration Fang to make a gap between my blade and the ground. But, it seems that Vibration Fang doesn’t work either.

Then, perhaps an Air Bullet couple provide enough lift? Once again, it doesn't trigger.

Using Fire Magic, I can blow myself away! —But that also doesn't work.

『Eh—..... What to do〜』

Taking a break from my escape attempts, I observe the surroundings.It's nothing more than a forest; really nothing more but... It seems that the reason why Demonic Beasts of the Plain don't go into the Forest is due to this Magic Power absorption phenomenon.

To higher leveled Demonic Beasts, Magic is important, so if they wander into the forest haphazardly they could get bogged down. Just like me.

『The only consolation is that I don't feel hungry.....』

For a little while, I try to invoke other Magic Skills, but it seems that they're completely nullified.

Because my MP isn't absorbed from my blade, if I don't continuously fire off random Skills, escape might be possible.

About my sight, because it seemed to be controlled by Magic Power within my blade, there doesn't seem to be a problem.

After several hours passed, I noticed something.

『My MP isn't recovering.』

It might be because the atmosphere in the area is lacking any Magic Power, but it seems that MP wasn't being restored automatically. I

still have more than half remaining, but I don't want to waste it.

This is bad; as it stands, I won't be able to get out by myself.

Ah—, how could such a thing……

◇◆◇ [5]

3 days have passed since then. There's still no change. On the first day, I tried to find ways to escape using Skills, but I've come to the conclusion that it's completely impossible.

I can't use any Magic, not to mention attack Skills; even Telepathy isn't possible.

All I can do is hope for a other creatures passing by and accidentally pulling me out by chance.

Or perhaps a natural disaster miraculously occurring and blowing me away.

A Human coming along and pulling me out would be the best result, but…

◇◆◇

10 days have now passed since I've been stuck. [6]

Please forgive me.

I hadn't paid attention to the reality of the situation. It doesn't need to be a Human. I'll sincerely apologize to all of the Goblins I've killed, because I'm no longer able to call them EXP anymore. So please, someone release me.

After you release me, I'll follow you for life. Anything would be fine. Even a Zombie Kobold.

Please.

◇◆◇

One month has passed. [7]

Because I'm a good sword, please pick me up. Please!

I'm of excellent quality, you know? I'm something of a Magic Sword. I'm not sure, but I don't think there're many like me, you know?

I can even cook.

I have a bunch of Skills, too.

If I use Points, I can even level them up if you'd like.

Look, look! Cooking Lv10!

〈 Cooking has reached LvMax 〉
〈 Bonus Stats will be attached to the Cooking Skill 〉

〈 A new item has been added to the Self-Evolution Bonuses 〉

Would Dismantling be useful too? Wouldn't it be convenient? I can level this up too. Hey look, another Lv10!

〈 Dismantling has reached LvMax 〉
〈 Bonus Stats will be awarded to the Dismantling Skill 〉

I also have Appraisal. It can be improved too, you know? Hey, I raised it by 1 Level.

Aren't I amazing?

My combat capabilities are even higher, you know?

Both Sword Arts and Sword Techniques are Lv7.

If you'd like, I could also grant Magic Skills, you know? Look, Fire Magic Lv10! How is it?

〈 Fire Magic has reached LvMax 〉
〈 Flame Magic[8] Lv1 had been learnt 〉

! Well well, there was even more on top of that! How about it? There's nothing to lose through picking me up, you know?

This Skill, too —

◇◆◇

「ー……!」

Ah. I was too eager to see people and had an auditory hallucination. It seems that I've already gone terminal.

「ー! …… T–t wa-ー!」

Eh? Could this auditory hallucination be real?

Gatagata*gata*gata!

A slight vibration is transmitted through the ground. What is it?

「Sti– Ch–i-gー」
「!…… I'– ca–y –u! Wha–」

It's a Human's voice!

A human came! Thank you, God!

Hey, I'm over here! I'm stuck! Don't I seem like a legendary sword? That being the case, pull me out! Please!

*Gata**gataga**tag**ata**!*

The real identity of the noise was the wheel of a carriage. The covered wagon appears from out of the forest.

But isn't it going to fast? If you turn with such a speed—

Just like that, the carriage overturned in front of me.

Gashan—!

Uwaah—! Are the people inside alright? But why were they in such a rush? They seem to have been chased by something.

For now I can't talk, so I can only watch over them. A person crawls out from the carriage while I anxiously worried over the safety of its riders.

Ohh, it looks like they're safe. He had the cliché appearance of a Merchant from a fantasy game. Speaking of appearances that use a similar overcoat, would it be easier to understand if I described his appearance as similar to that of a merchant from Dr**n Qu**t 3? [9]

In addition, a small subordinate-like small man comes out. After the small man called out, several men and women also came out.

But…… Their appearance is terrible.

Wearing tattered clothing which clearly wasn't washed, their clothes are hardly clothing at all, because they're only tied to their bodies with a single string each. Their hair is dirty as well, and big collars are fitted around their necks.

『Slaves… There's slavery in this world?』

Well, I'm slightly disappointed. My precious feelings of a different world have been tainted. — Slaves aren't particularly bad, of course. I just thought that the Humans of this world would have been a

little different from my former one.

「Have the Slaves carry the luggage!」
「Come on, do it now! Hey, you, hurry up! Take the luggage!」
「*Uuu*...」
「Do it quickly you half-wit!」

Uwa～ what scum. It's Human waste. The little man beats a slave burdened with heavy baggage with a whip. Just looking at that, I start to feel sick.

「It's coming!」
「*Hiii!* Come on!」

And, the cause of their panic appeared.

「***Gururuu***」

It was a Demonic Beast: A Bear with two heads.

---

[1] As in Saber-Tooth Tiger — not a sword. The actual translation is "Tyrant Saber Tiger", which I would have changed to "Tyrant Saber-Toothed Tiger" but that's kind of a mouthful. Thus the translation.　タイラント・サーベルタイガー。

[2] In the second half of the sentence (after the comma) I'm pretty sure sword-bro is just saying that he can leave without any trouble, but I'm not sure. 何もせずに引き返してもな

[3] Babyun = Whoosh; should I continue using the Japanese pronunciation? Or perhaps change it to the western norm? バビュン

[4] Literally "POS" — "no result but empty air" as said by **Mystletainn**. ポス

[5] The Author actually just used a double-space to represent the time change. I've changed it to ~~three asterisks~~ marks used by the

Author in later chapters to make the time change more visible.

[6] All of these lines were supposed to be in one paragraph — probably to display Sword-bro's growing desperation — but because it just makes it look like a wall of text instead, I've separated the lines to create partial pauses with the same effect.

[7] See 6.

[8] "Flame Magic" is different from Fire Magic. Flame = 火炎, Fire = 火

[9] Reference to a Merchant from Dragon Quest 3. I think. ドラ〇ンクエスト3

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 12: Can a Sword mofu a Kemonomimi?

Ensig:
There's an actual Author's note this time~!

I've remodeled the Status Display and put it into the "Preformatted" font for this chapter. Tell me what you think about it; revert, or keep it? I'll change all previous chapter according to the opinions on it!

Also, I hate the word Kemonomimi! Not the word itself, but the process of translating it from Japanese to English!

Sword-bro's mean for putting that in this chapter more than once. It takes time, you know~? You mess up my machines, you know~?

Complaining aside: here's the chapter.

※※※

Author's Note:
Cruel Descriptions? [1]

Panic reaches the Slaves and Merchants who are faced with the 2-headed Bear running out of the bush.

"The Horse-drawn carriage was being attacked by Demonic Beasts of the forest." That would probably be an appropriate way to describe this situation.

The Merchant was in a hurry to put part of the load on the slaves, but then a different order was commanded of them.

「Slaves, hold it back!」

The Merchant would take that chance to run away.

The slaves don't even have any weapons. The only reason they'd be sent out is to be eaten and buy some time. Even the Slaves should understand that much. But they obeyed the words of the Merchant and headed towards the Bear.

Why? The thought had crossed my mind when I first saw them, but perhaps they're bound by Magic or something? The Magic Power absorption of this land doesn't act on the body, so it doesn't seem to interfere with whatever Magic was used to make the contract.

A tree's trunk was cut down, and a male Slave was blown away. With only one shot, the lower half of his body bid farewell to his upper half. Despite being a low-class Demonic Beast with only a Threat Level of F, it isn't an opponent that can be confronted without decent equipment. These Slaves are simply too powerless in the face of the Demonic Beast, which is the personification of violence.

If this keeps up, it'll only take a couple of minutes for the Slaves to be completely annihilated.

I'm sorry, but I can't do anything about it since even my voice has been taken. The only one capable of getting away from this situation unscathed is the piece of trash formerly known as the Merchant.

Damn it! If only someone pulled me out!

While I aimlessly though so, a figure stood before me.

A Slave girl. But even though the girl was dirty, her hair wasn't unkempt; it was done up and fastened in place.

And her ears… They're cat ears. On the top of her head, she had the mark of an animal! — It's a Beastman[2]! It's a Mofumimi[3]!

I forgot the terrible scene unfolding in the area and was

momentarily impressed. Well, Cat Ears are a treasure of the world, right? It's hard not to be moved.

Ahh, come on already! The inability to let out my voice is so irritating!

And the Girl… Pulls on me. — Please, I want to immediately mofu this Nekomimi! No, wait. How could I mofu with the body of a sword? Telekinesis? No, no. Since I have a sense of touch, if I can gently do it with the side of my blade—

The girl continued to cling to me with all her strength.

She was told to die, but is still adamant about living. She's one that doesn't give up. This girl. I want this girl to use me.

『……』

The girl puts more force into her grip. Come on! Pull me out!

However, it seems that I was more firmly stuck into the ground than I imagined. Judging by appearances, she's only about 12, give or take 3 years? It's to my understanding that she wasn't given enough food, so she's quite skinny. With the powerless arm of such a girl, it mustn't be easy to pull me out.

Hang in there! Do your best! Or rather, look behind you!

Just like that, the Bear was approaching behind the girl. As for the other Slaves… It was hopeless.

Only the girl remains.

『Pull me out!』
「…? A voice?」
『You, can you hear my voice?!』
「Who…?」
『The sword! I'm the sword which you'll pull out.』

「…… Surprising.」
『You don't seem surprised…』
「I am.」
『Enough of this, the Bear is coming! Pull me out quickly, girl!』

Talking seems possible under the condition that we're touching, it seems. The girl seems to be the expressionless & taciturn type of person. Good! Please, say "idiot" with an embarrassed face!

The girl groans and puts more power into her arms.

Zuzu

『I moved a little!』
「*Uu—n…*」
『Do your best!』

Zuzuzu

『Just a little more!』
「*Nunu…*!」

Zubo!

『I'm out!』
「Beautiful sword.」
『Thank you, but that's not the case!』
「It is.」
『Can you fight?』
「A little.」

I confirm the status of the girl.

Name : None　Age : 12
Race : Black Cat Beastman
Job : None
State : Enslaved

Status:
Level : 4
HP : 29 MP : 17 STR : 13 END : 10 AGI : 16 INT : 8 MGC : 7 DEX : 1

Skills:
Sword Arts : Lv1, Night Eyes, Skinning Expert[4], Directional Sense

Titles:
None

Equipment:
Old Rags

There're really few! She has Sword Arts, but... Ah, but that's alright!

『Equip me!』
「Already equipped.」
『You need to go further! Properly imagine equipping me!』
「? Alright.」

〈 Nameless has been registered as equipped 〉

Alright, this'll be the first time I've used Skill-Sharing.

〈 Nameless has received multiple Titles 〉

『Oh? What's this all of a sudden?』

Attempting to use Appraisal on them..... Seems possible.

The girl had received the Titles: Master of Fire, King of Cooking, King of Dismantling, and Skill Collector; those four. When Skills become LvMax, that seems to occur. Their respective Skills have their effects increased, and in the case of Skill Collector, proficiency acquisition seems to become more efficient.

Well, I'll leave it for now. Such information isn't exactly helpful

right now.

『Fight. You should be able to.』
「Nn.」
『Defeat that guy. [5] Believe in yourself, and wield me!』

The Sword Arts Skill should be able to deal with the situation somehow. The opponent's a lower-rank Demonic Beast, anyways. With Sword Arts Lv7, losing is impossible. There're other Status ↑ effects in place as well.

「..... Yes. I understand.」
『Alright, good girl.』
「..... *Yaa!*」

The poise of the girl was absolutely beautiful. With movements befitting an expert swordsman, she moved closer to the Bear and, with a single strike, she pierced it right through the heart. It was as if I had hit tofu, as I was met with absolutely no resistance.

「Eh?」
『You were able to do it. How was it?』
「..... Yes. Thanks to you?」
『Indeed. Won't you thank me?』
「Thank you.」

After saying so, the girl prepared to put me back into the ground, so I stopper her in a hurry.

『Wait! Don't put me back into the ground!』
「？」
『Because of the ground here, I can't do anything. Therefore, take me with you for a while.』
「*Uu—n?*」
『What's wrong?』
「You would be taken, probably.」
『By the Slave Traders?』

「Yes.」

That would be unpleasant. Even though I had found a Mofumimi girl with much effort… I want this girl to use me! Even if I'm taken away by a Merchant and sold to a connoisseur, to be sealed once again would be a much worse result!

『Why not escape?』
「Impossible. Can't defy: collar.」
『Is it some form of Magic Tool?』
「Yes. Tried to kill multiple times, impossible.』
『You've tried to kill the Slave Traders?』
「Yes. I've tried to kill them and escape.」

I see. This girl was more bloodthirsty than I thought. But it's not like I dislike that.

『So, it was impossible because of the collar.』
「Yes.」

While talking with the girl, I saw a man running from the other side of the forest. It's the Slave Trader. By the way, the little man had already passed away. His corpse is sprawled out just a little ways away.

「Only one's alive?! I'm ruined! Such a heavy loss — shit!」

There's no sign of the man mourning over the deaths of the Slaves, or even his subordinate. Rather, he was lamenting his broken cargo. He's so shitty that it's refreshing.

「……」
「Did you defeat the Twin-Headed Bear?」
「Yes.」
「How did you…… What is that sword?」
「Picked up.」
「Give it to me.」

「…… Un.」
「Hey, what's with those eyes, huh?!」
「I'm sorry, I'll do it.」
「Tch. Damn beasts with their gloomy eyes.」
「*Ah…!*」

Suddenly, the man strikes the girl. Seriously? It's a feeling that I'm used to, but… From the girl who was now crouching on the ground, the man forcefully took me away.

「*Hoo*… Isn't this sword beautiful? Won't this be able to make up my losses?」

While ignoring the groans of pain coming from the girl, the man began appraising me.

「Hey, beast. Load the goods that're still salvageable. Then, we'll depart for town.」

Because of the Slave Contract, the girl can't go against the will of the man. She stood up aimlessly while dragging her body, which much have been aching.

Disgusting. Absolutely disgusting. With just that, my killing intent is at its peak. Damn it! If not for the Magic Absorption in this place, I would have killed this guy already!

「*–Kupe*?」

When I thought of using Telekinesis, it was possible. Teehee.

No, for some reason, it seems that the Magic Power absorption was weakened after leaving the ground. When I was stuck into the ground the absorption was instant, but now there's a postponement of about one second until it's absorbed.

And so, while thinking that I wanted to kill the Slave Trader, I used Telekinesis with all my power and swung vigorously. As a result, I

completely pierced the face of the Slave Trader, splitting his skull hard enough for his brain fluid to burst out.

Ah. I did it?

Uu—m. Maybe because he was a piece of shit? Or, perhaps it's because I'm a sword? Either way, the feeling of guilt doesn't come out at all. When I killed a Goblin for the first time there was a slight aching in my conscience, though.

『Well, what should we do now?』
「？」

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[1] This is essentially the Author making it known that there's Gore. 'Nuff said. 残酷描写？

[2] Essentially, it's "Beast/Animal Person/Man". I took my pick and combined them as a Race. 獣人だ

[3] Yeah. This was a pain to translate. It was the same with the title — in fact, at first, I thought it was a name of some sort. It turns out that Sword-bro is referring to Kemonomimis (essentially people with animal ears/tails) for the Title, and here he's subbing out "Kemono" with "Mofu" as a sort of slang-thing.
Mofu is essentially "rub" or "cuddle" or other such things. モフミミ様や！
What a pain~

[4] I'm not entirely sure about Skinning Expert. It's 剥ぎ取り上手 which can be separated into 剥ぎ取り ("Stripping/Tearing Off/Skinning") and 上手 ("Skillful/Expert/etc.). It could be "Stripping Expert" because she's a Slave, and that sort of stuff... It happens. And, in fact, that's the most probable translation, because there's a legitimate Deconstruction Skill which has been mentioned before — making "Skinning" sort of like a double. But I'm not sure. I'll keep it as-is until told otherwise via recommendations/mentions

in the Story beyond this point.

[5] There's supposed to be a "そう意識しろ。" here in the middle, but it translates to "Be conscious/aware" — which doesn't fit well in English. I've transmitted the feeling of the sentence as best as I could in the next sentence, though.

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 13: Teacher & Fran

Ensig:
So, for those who haven't heard in the post where I talked about this being a long chapter, I'm sure that just by mentioning it, you know what the topic of my note this time is.

Yeah. It's long. Not as long as the last long chapter, but still ~2x the length of the others.

That being the case, this time I'll give it to you in parts.

The reasons for this is simple:

1. Because dividing work means that you'll be able to hold out a while longer.
2. It shows progress.
3. Because I'm playing Final Fantasy Crystal Chronicles: Echoes of Time, and I've gained a slight addiction.

On top of those, I've already mentioned in the first couple of chapters that I worked on that *I'm only doing this to kick boredom to the curb*. If something's more entertaining than watching Sword-bro smack things around, the chances of me "dropping" this (in quotation marks because I never really "picked it up", I just translated for the heck of it) are actually quite high.

Putting it like that might make some lose hope, but… Well, that's how it is.

Conversely, so long as I'm bored (which'll probably come back with a vengance after finishing Crystal Chronicles in a day or two) you'll have your chapters, and all will be well with the world.

tl;dr: The speed of my translation might slow down within the next couple of days, and the current chapter

will be split into parts.

Now, for a note directly relevant to the chapter, [1] is a spoiler of sorts for Spirited Away, so if you haven't watched that, skip over it.

※※※

Author's Note:
It seems that it's almost been 20 chapters since I've started updating every day.

『Calm down. First, let's confirm the situation.』
「I am calm.」
『You're too calm.』

This girl is more self-paced than I thought. I have a premonition she'll be very successful.

『You have now become my wielder.』
「Yes.」
『—Anyways, I'm a Magic Sword more or less. I should be quite strong…… Or so I believe.』
「Yes.」
『That's why, I want you to use me as your sword. Even if you want to stow me away, it's alright. But you… Do you intend to use me? In other words, will you use me to slay Demonic Beasts?』

Indeed, a girl shouldn't simply be forced to live such a life.

Because I've been equipped for the first time, I have the feeling of wanting this girl to use me, but if she says she doesn't want to, I'll give up.

「I want to use you. Definitely want to use you.」

An immediate response. That figure which grasped onto my hilt

tightly was as dignified as they come.

「I will become stronger. Absolutely.」

What circumstances would motivate her to this extent?

『What is your goal?』
「Break through the wall.」
『The wall? What's that?』

While listening to her story, I discover that Beastmen seem to be a species that evolves, much like Demonic Beasts. There're various conditions depending on the Race, but all evolved Beastmen receive respect from their people.

However, the vast majority of Beastmen die without being able to evolve. There seems to be a great difference between Beastmen who have evolved, and those who have not too.

The Black Cats, which is the Race of the girl, have had no one who has evolved throughout all of history. Because of this, they're treated like underlings among the Beastmen. Her parents also pursued evolution, but ran out of strength in the middle of their adventure. The girl caught the eyes of Slave Traders, and was captured.

The girl has inherited the will of her deceased parents, thus her drive for achieving evolution.

『*Mh, mh!* What a story! A worthy reason! I'll make certain that you'll evolve!』
「Really?」
『Of course! I'll forge you without holding back, right from the start; then, we'll go into a Dungeon to level up! And then, evolution!』
「Thank you very much.」
『It's fine! I wouldn't pick just anyone to equip me! —Er… That reminds me, what about your name?』

I still haven't heard her name yet, even though she's my important

wielder. But the answer that the girl gave was unexpected.

「Don't have one.」
『Eh? You don't have a name?』
「No.」

Certainly, she had no name in Appraisal, but to really have no name…

『Why?』
「Name disappears once you enter a Slave contract.」
『Hmm? What do you mean?』
「New masters usually want to decide on a name, so your name is erased.」

I see; so perhaps after using Contract Magic it's forbidden to use their name? It's like they're Chihiro who had their name stolen by Yu**ba[1].

「My name was erased when I was 8.」

That means that she's lived 4 years as a Slave without losing the determination to achieve her goal. It was surely a life wrought with troubles. She's gained a little of my respect.

『Is that so…… Then, what was your original name?』
「Fran.」

It's the same name as a dog which I kept a long time ago, but oh well. It's easy to say, at least.

『Hm—m. Then your name is Fran.』
「Is that alright?」
『Is that no good?』
「No, it's not no good. I'm Fran.」

She seems to be happy. She nods her head again and again. With this, it's become easier to call out to her. But, from the words given

from Fran next, I became perplexed.

「Your name?」
『Eh? Me?』
「Yes.」

In the past month I never talked to anyone, so I didn't have to worry about it, but... I've never had a name, huh. How foolish, to have never noticed.

I have the name that I used during my last life, so I could claim that as my name. But that would be a person's name, so it would be quite an odd name for a Sword.

But... Looking at my Status, my name is Unknown. Shit! If I had thought about it earlier, I would have been able to think of a cool name!

Something like "Cursed Sword Ch**s" or "Derfl**ger"! [2]

『Well……』
「No name?」
『That's correct.』
「Then, I'll name you.」

Well, that's fine too. She is my wielder, after all. If Fran gives me a name she likes, then I will receive that affection. Besides, I'm apathetic towards what name I'm given, so she should call me what she'd like.

「*Uu—n……*」
『**Dokidoki**』 [3]
「*Fu—mu……?*」
『**Wakuwaku**』 [4]
「*Mumu—*…… I've decided.」
『Oh! I see! So? What is it?』
「Teacher.」[5]

『Ha?』
「Teacher.」
『Why?』
「You've said that you'll train me. Therefore: Teacher.」
『Ah—. There're no other contenders? Just that one?』
「There isn't. Best regards, Teacher.」

〈 Name has been temporarily set to Teacher 〉

Uwaah—! An announcement came?! It's a lie, right? My name isn't seriously Teacher, right?

「Disliked?」

She's as expressionless as before, but there's a subtle anxiety showing on her face. Just a little. I can't say that I hate it if you look at me like that!

『It's not bad! It's a good name—!』
「Yes.」

And so, Teacher was decided as my name. I can't help but think that it's not a proper name for a sword, but it's fine so long as Fran likes it. Or so I persuaded myself.

『So, what shall we do from now on? Seeing as the Slave Trader is dead, what happened to the contract? Was it dispelled?』
「It's not. Collar didn't fall off.」

Fran points towards her collar.

「The Contract should be at a Slave Firm.」
『So even if a Slave Trader dies, there's no meaning so long as the contract remains?』
「Go to town: get caught.」

It seems I'll have to deal with this collar somehow.

『Is breaking it no good?』
「Mn. If broken: I die.」
『Eh? Seriously?』
「Seriously.」

Ohh. Dangerous. I was thinking of just cutting it off.

『How should I deal with it……?』

Perhaps a Skill of some sort? When I thought so, I found some Skills I wanted to try.

However, because I can't use Skills in this place, I have to leave the Magic Power absorption zone.

「Then, leaving the forest should be fine.」

I receive something valuable from the carriage, and we start moving. Of course, the Bear was also collected.

I have my blade wrapped in the carriage's cover as a makeshift sheath, using the small man's belt to fasten it to Fran's back. Because she's quite small I almost drag against the ground, but I don't really mind.

Just by equipping me, her physical abilities are considerably strengthened. Fran seems quite surprised from that.

In less than 30 minutes we were able to pass through the forest, it was surprising indeed. Incidentally, because of Conceal Presence, we didn't encounter any Demonic Beasts.

「Amazing. Teacher is amazing.」
『Ahahaha, you think so?』
「Yes.」
『Now then, I'll try out a Skill.』

First, Recovery Magic. I used Magic to try and cure her abnormal

condition. There was no effect.

『Then, next is this.』

Next would be using Purification Magic, treating her status as a curse.

『Lv2 should be enough.』

It, too, was no good. I have hope in the next one, however.

Contract Magic. As its name might have suggested, my aim is to override the Slave Contract with my own contract.

Contract Magic allows its user to make a contract between the user and the target via Magic. Depending on its Level and the amount of MP used, I can choose from several contract contents. However… I cannot make a contract if the target doesn't consent. I can only make a contract with one target at a time; attempting to making multiple contracts at the same time will result in failure.

So are the details of Contract Magic.

If the Slave Contract is using Contract Magic, I think it's possible to overwrite it.

And so, I used Contract Magic with the image of dispelling prior Magic while making sure to also call the Magic within the collar out.

pachi

A small snapping sound resounded. I certainly felt that the Contract Magics had interfered with one another. However, my Contract Magic is too low, so it's been repelled.

『Alright, this means that it's possible to overwrite it.』

One by one, I use Self-Evolution Points to level up Contract Magic.

Finally, at Lv7, I was able to overwrite the contract. As for the amount of Points used: it was 12.

For the contents of the Contract, it was『Range：None・Bestow Name：Fran』[6]. It seems giving other false names would also be possible using this method.

pakin

The Slave collar comes off naturally, due to the overwrite.

『Is your body alright?』
「It's alright. No problems.」

I watch the flow of Magic Power inside of Fran, but as she said, there're no problems. Also, the Magic Power from the Contract Magic that bound Fran until recently was mainly based in the collar, so it it completely disperses within a couple of seconds.

「Thank you.」

Mmh. The sight of a cat-eared girl being bashful! Beautiful things are beautiful! It was really cute! When you look carefully, it's easy to see that she's quite beautiful. When she grows up, others won't be able to leave her alone.

That's no good. I won't allow it. You'll have to defeat me if you want to go out with Fran!

「This.」

While my passion burnt by myself, Fran removed something from her waist. It' the wallet that the Slave Trader had.

『What's inside?』

I peer inside, only to find it having numerous contents.

There're several pieces of money. Well, I don't understand this world's currency, so I don't really know how much these're worth. There're Silver, Copper, and other such things, so it's likely not a huge amount at least.

Besides that, there're a couple of tools. They seem to be Magic Tools. Fran demonstrated each.

There's a Torch which can be lit using Magic, a small pitcher which produces drinking water, and a Bracelet which has the effect of STR +1.

It's not all that great, but it's interesting in its own way. The Bracelet with STR +1, that is.

『Alright, what shall we do now? Other than your main objective, are there any prospects for right now?』
「*Hm—m*. A town.」
『Around here?』
「Over there.」
『Over there, you say…… About how far?』
「Don't know.」

Apparently, she had heard the Slave Trader speaking of a city to the East by chance. Because the Sense Of Direction Skill that Fran possesses, we'll be able to advance in that direction somehow or another. As a result, her response wouldn't go beyond a carefree 「There.」.

『Well, let's head there then.』

And so, that marked the start of our journey.
This is roughly the current Status:

Name : Teacher
Equipment Registration : Fran
Race : Intelligent Weapon

ATK : 392 MP : 1650/1650 Durability : 1450/1450

Magic Power Conductivity ▪ A

Skills:
Appraisal : Lv7, Appraisal Concealment, High-Speed Self-Repair, Self-Ev

Set Skills:
Sword Arts : Lv7, Pugilist Arts : Lv3

Sword Techniques : Lv7, Pugilist Techniques : Lv1

HP Recovery Rate ↑ : Lv1, Evasion : Lv2, Evasion ↑ : Lv1, Leg Strength ↑ :

Recovery Magic : Lv1, Flame Magic : Lv1, Purification Magic : Lv3, Soil M

Danger Perception : Lv1, Vigilance : Lv4, Presence Perception : Lv2, Harv

Stealth : Lv3, Conceal Presence : Lv3, Escape : Lv1

Intimidation : Lv2, Ambition : Lv1

Fire Resistance : Lv1, Fear Resistance : Lv1, Impact Resistance : Lv1, Abn

Dismantling : LvMax, Throwing : LV3, Cooking : LvMax

Aerial Jump : Lv2

Mineralogy : Lv1, Medicine Manufacturing : Lv1, Herbalism : Lv3

Poison Breath : Lv1, Fission Creation : Lv1

Vigor Manipulation, Dimensional Storage, Vibration Fang, Floating, Par

Night Vision, Absorption Enhancement, Sight Enhancement, Digestion E

Memory Skills:
Weapon Skills:
Archery : Lv1, Sword Dancing : Lv1, Sword Arts : Lv7, Pugilist Arts : Lv3,

Technique Skills:
Sword Techniques : Lv7, Pugilist Techniques : Lv1, Shield Techniques : L

Physical Skills:
HP Recovery Rate ↑ : Lv1, Evasion : Lv2, Evasion ↑ : Lv1, Leg Strength ↑ :

Magic Skills:
Recovery Magic : Lv1, Flame Magic : Lv1, Wind Magic : Lv1, Contract Ma

Detection Skills
Footstep Perception : Lv1, Danger Perception : Lv1, Airflow Vision : LV1,

Concealment Skills:
Stealth : Lv3, Mimicry : Lv1, Conceal Presence : Lv3, Silent Flight : Lv1, S

Influence Skills:
Coercion : Lv1, Intimidation : Lv2, Leadership : Lv1, Raise Morale : Lv1, A

Resistance Skills:
Fire Resistance : Lv1, Fear Resistance : Lv1, Impact Resistance : Lv1, Abn

Technical Skills:
Digging : Lv3, Transportation : Lv4, Dismantling : LvMax, Blacksmithing

Art/Science Skills:
Mineralogy : Lv1, Medicine Manufacturing : Lv1, Herbalism : Lv3

Magical Ability Skills
Absorption : Lv1, Airflow Manipulation : Lv1, Air Compression : Lv1, Air

Special Ability Skills

Scale Regeneration, Orc Slayer, Vigor Manipulation, Phantom Body, Gob

Passive Skills:
Night Vision, Scale Hardening, Smell Enhancement, Absorption Enhanc

Synthesized Skills:
Vibration Bullet Discharge

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[1] Reference to Yubaba from Spirited Away.

[2] Both are references to swords of some sort. The first is a reference to Demonic Sword Chaos — or, Kaosu (魔剣カ〇ス = 魔剣カオス) — from the Rance Series. Thanks to **Mesaphrom** for pointing that out!
The second is a reference to Derflinger — or Derufuringa (デルフリ〇ガー = デルフリンガー) — from the Zero no Tsukaima Series. Thanks to **Mystletainn** for pointing that out!

[3] The sound of Sword-bro's (nonexistent) heart palpitating.

[4] The sound of Sword-bro's excitement building.

[5] It's "Shisho" (師匠), so *technically* it could also be "Master". ***Not the 'Goshujin-sama~" type, though.***

[6] The contents are actually 不都合のない範囲で、フランと名乗ること, but I essentially compounded the information. The bit pre-comma is saying "A range with no inconvenience" which, when separated into compounded characters = No Range — thus the translation. The second half is just as it appears; declaring Fran's name.

※※※

Ensig:
As for why I didn't end up updating today/yesterday (depending on your time), I actually ended up remodeling a lot of Skills. Airflow

Manipulation from the Wyvern, for example, I had translated into "Air Manipulation" by mistake when Sword-shisho had mentioned it alongside Air Bullet Discharge and such.

In other words, I went through Chapters and made sure everything matched up. I think.

I also made a .txt containing all of the Skills that have been mentioned, so that I don't end up translating ones that've been encountered before all weird. It sounds simple, but I had to match them up with what they looked like in Japanese, so it actually took a while to complete.

As for other changes, I changed Boxing Arts to Pugilist Arts — because my definition of "Pugilism" is just "fighting". I searched up the proper definition and, lo and behold, it was "The profession/hobby of boxing". So Pugilist is more appropriate.

Also on that note, it turns out that what I've been translating as "Arts" are different from Skills related to "Techniques".

So, there's Sword Arts and Sword Technique skills — both of which are different. In fact, "Swordsmanship" should actually be "Sword Arts", and what I've been translating as "Sword Arts" already should be "Sword Techniques". Yeah. I had the sneaking suspicion that it was like that when Sword-shisho Appraised the Slime Lord (because it had V.B. Techniques *and* Arts), and now my suspicions have been proven accurate.

What separates Arts and Techniques is a single character. 術 = Arts, 技 = Technique. Both can actually be synonymous depending on the context, and in English they *are* essentially synonymous, so that's a pain~

Thankfully, the only weapon types that Sword-shisho has both Arts and Techniques for thus far has been the Sword, so changing that was pretty simple. It's impossible to tell the difference between the

two unless you look at those single characters at the end of the word, so I could have easily missed one or two if I didn't catch it early on!

If I missed a "Swordplay", let me know, and I'll change it to "Sword Arts"!

–Ah, also, the previous Translators translated 投擲 as Throwing Technique(s)… But it's just "Throwing", so I've changed it to be so in all previous chapters. I had used Techniques as well, 'cause it made sense, but now there's a legitimate Throwing Arts Skill (投擲術), so having "Technique" there would be misleading.

And, as the cherry on top, I found that Willpower Manipulation isn't as accurate as it could be, so I did some searching. 気力 = Willpower/Energy/Vitality, so I swapped in "Vigor" upon learning an interesting fact. What is that fact, you ask?

気力 in games is Stamina.

The more you know~

Chapter 14: The Walk to Town

Through the improvement in Appraisal, there were some changes in the Status display. The first change was the mysterious “Magical Power Conductivity”. Fran didn’t seem to know what it was either. Is it the efficiency in conducting Magic? Really, I have no clue.

The next changes related to the display format of Skills. Different types of Skills became sorted, so it’s become somewhat easier to look at.

Oh, I also came to understand Self-Modification, which I didn’t understand thus far. Apparently, thanks to it new effects are gained once I reach a counter stop. [1]

✧It can grant Superior Skills, which are simply be better versions of the Skill they’re derived from. To Skills that have reached LvMax, modifying it into a Superior Skill is a great bonus. However, these Skills are excluded from the Set Skills that I can share with Fran, and are usable only to me. This is, of course, because my own Skills cannot become Set Skills. Putting it into two categories for Skill Sharing seems to be impossible.

However, because it uses up 10 Self-Evolution Points, I’ll need to give serious thought to the Skills I want to modify. Why it uses Self-Evolution Points is quite mysterious, but because they’re primarily based in Self-Evolution itself, Self-Modification could be something akin to a support of Self-Evolution.

Along the way to the Town I teach Fran about myself, too. There’s nothing to hide, after all. We also need to know the proper truth beforehand in order to arrange an alibi of some sort for one another; that way we won’t be found out by others.

I taught her about my ability to absorb Magic Stones, Skill Sharing, my ability to increase the Stats of my wielder, etc.

「Magic Stones……」
『Mhm. However, I just leveled up recently, so there's a long way to go.』
「Un.」
『Ah, hey. What are you doing?』
「Un.」

Gangan

My blade was pressed down into the middle of a Fang Rat, piercing the Magic Stone along the way. Usually, I would try to absorb it but she was a little unreasonable.

『Wait, wait! It's no good if it's just cut! It has to remain in contact with my blade!』
「Like this?」
『Yeah, like that.』
「Really absorbed…」
『I can become stronger through doing this. We can also sell any materials we gain, so we should hunt Demonic Beasts proactively.』
「Un. Roger.」

The journey up until this point has gone on without any problems. It seems that the Plains were quite special after all, as the Demonic Beasts which appeared outside of the forest weren't very strong either. At best, they'd be equivalent to ones found in Area 2.

In regards to meals, it's left to me.

When my sanity had been depleted, Cooking was one of the Skills that was elevated, after all. The ingredients are the Demonic Beasts stored within Dimensional Storage. Thanks to Cooking, I found out whether Demonic Beasts were edible or not.

Because Fran has the same Cooking Skill as me, she should be able to cook, but I'll be taking charge in this area. This is the duty of a guardian, after all.

Furthermore, I also made absolutely sure that my Resistance Skills were set, alongside Absorption Enhancement, Digestion Enhancement, Predation, and other such Skills while meals took place.

Predation allows the user to absorb the power of what the user eats. I don't know how much of a difference it'll make, but there's no problem with setting it anyways.

At present, Fran's status looks like this:

Name : Fran Age : 12
Race : Black Cat Tribe
Job : None
State : Contracted

Status:
Level : 5
HP : 73 MP : 65 STR : 41 END : 32 AGI : 43 INT : 28 MGC : 32 DE

Skills:
Night Eyes [2], Skinning Expert, Directional Sense

Set Skills:
Sword Arts : Lv7, Pugilist Arts : Lv3

Sword Techniques : Lv7, Pugilist Techniques : Lv1

HP Recovery Rate ↑ : Lv1, Evasion : Lv2, Evasion ↑ : Lv1, Leg Strength ↑ :

Recovery Magic : Lv1, Flame Magic : Lv1, Purification Magic : Lv3, Grou

Danger Perception : Lv1, Vigilance : Lv4, Presence Perception : Lv2, Harv

Stealth : Lv3, Conceal Presence : Lv3, Escape : Lv1

Intimidation : Lv2, Ambition : Lv1

Fire Resistance : Lv1, Fear Resistance : Lv1, Impact Resistance : Lv1, Abn

Dismantling : LvMax, Throwing : LV3, Cooking : LvMax

Aerial Jump : Lv2

Mineralogy : Lv1, Medicine Manufacturing : Lv1, Herbalism : Lv3

Poison Breath : Lv1, Fission Creation : Lv1

Vigor Manipulation, Dimensional Storage, Vibration Fang, Floating, Par
Night Vision, Absorption Enhancement, Sight Enhancement, Digestion E

Titles:
King of Dismantling, Skill Collector, Master of Fire, King of Cooking

Equipment:
Regular Clothing, Bracelet of Strength +1

For her Status, she's overwhelmingly stronger than Goblins. In fact, she's stronger than a Goblin King. She would be about equal to the Demonic Beasts and the top of the Orc Race in Area 3. She's also changed from her previously shabby clothing into ones from the horse-drawn carriage.

Each of her equipments' Stats have also been improved by ~20 per piece; this is due to the effects of Skills like Owner ALL Stats ↑ and STR ↑ Low. They're quite the cheats. Like this, there'll be no problem in a fight against lower-leveled Demonic Beasts.

As for her Skills, these are the basic ones, but they'll change often because I modify them depending on the situation.

The only problem at hand is money. The currency unit of this world seems to be "Gorudo" [3]. From the Slave Trader we received 2 Silver

Coins, and 24 Copper Coins. That's a total of 224 Gorudo. It seems that's along the fine line of having lodging at a hotel for one night.

The reason why I said "it seems" is because Fran isn't an expert on the market of the world. It's just general knowledge.

And so, the first order of business is getting money. Preparing Armor and such will be essential, after all.

Just in case, I have a certain prospect that we can use. That is, the corpses of the Demonic Beasts which have been stowed away in Dimensional Storage. Because they seem to be the main source of income for Adventurers, selling them as materials would be worth a little at least.

So, before arrival, we'll dismantle the material and sort out the ones that'll most likely sell.

Because the materials gained from high-ranking Demonic Beasts might attract unnecessary attention to Fran, we'll have to sell materials from lesser ranked Demonic Beasts for now.

Well, that's an issue for when we arrive at town though.

『Alright, it's done.』

We're in the middle of camping at the moment. Fran is in the process of dismantling the materials. Apparently, so long as I'm registered as Equipment, even if she's not holding me Skill Sharing will still be in effect. The Status raises will also remain. So Fran can use Dismantling even if she's a little bit away.

In one hand Fran held a knife, dismantling the corpse of a Demonic Beast lying on the ground. Deodorization from Purification Magic is also being used in order to keep Demonic Beasts from approaching due to the smell of blood. Fran set that up all on her own.

Currently, I'm preparing a meal . It's a stew using the meat of

Demonic Beasts inside of a pot taken from the Slave Traders' carriage. I'm also making use of medicinal herbs harvested using Herbalism, so the nutrition'll be perfect.

As a sword, it's easy for me to cut up ingredients, and mixing isn't a problem using Telekinesis. The taste should be absolutely flawless —— Cooking is LvMax, after all. It's quite regrettable that I can't taste it for myself.

This division of labor will be the default in the future. I'll be in charge of Cooking and lookout, and Fran will be responsible for Dismantling. I'll take the Magic Stones, and everything will be either sold or eaten.

『Fran, it's finished.』
「Un.」
『Rinse your hands with water.』
「Aqua・Create」

Fran washes her hands with a *pachapacha* sound using water I created via Water Magic, with me as the source of MP. There're no problems in regards to consumption. Because Fran is the one using me, my Magic can be freely used, so we'll be able to generate as much water as necessary.

『Is the Dismantling finished?』
「Almost. One is impossible.」
『Ahh, the Tortoise?』

For the Blast Tortoise, even at LvMax it seems impossible to dismantle with just a knife. Well, it can't be helped. It's a high-ranking Demonic Beast, after all.

The Tyrant Saber couldn't be dismantled yesterday either. It's an issue with the tools.

『Is it my turn today as well?』

「Please.」
『Mmh. Leave it to me. As for you, have a good meal.』
「Un. Thank you.」

Now, I should dismantle it quickly before Fran's finished eating.

"Correction"

It's a Skill that could be said to be one of a kind; an amazing Skill resultant from reaching a counter stop: a Superior Skill.

And it's worthy of the title "Superior". [4]

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[1] Counter Stop is Japanese gaming lingo for "When something reaches max value", in this case, it's when a Skill become LvMax.

[2] Previously translated as "Night Vision" — which it technically is. It's spelt like this "夜目" whereas the Night Vision Sword-shisho has is "暗視". To be honest, I knew that it was a bit different, but the Skills were practically synonymous. Now that Fran has both Skills however, I need to change it. Originally I would have made it "Cat Eyes", but there's a possibility that other Races will have the same Skill, so "Night Eyes" is the middle ground I settled with. As always, if you have a better recommendation let me know

[3] It's ゴルド. That could also be changed to plain old "Gold" — but in the end it would just be a guess based off of the onomatopoeia, so I kept it as Gorudo. Tell me what you guys think.

[4] The Author makes a "→" here, which is essentially them referring back to a previous part of the chapter. For which part they're referring to, it's the part related to Self-Modification's ability to elevate LvMax Skills to "Superior Skills" — I've marked it with a "✧" for easy finding if anyone wants to read it again.

Chapter 15: Randell the Merchant

Ensig:
I seem to be getting into the habit of starting to Translate at like… 8-10:00 AM and then getting distracted throughout the day and only finishing late at night.

Well, anything's better than nothing, right?

For those of you who didn't know, I also released V1C6 of Gentle Demon here if you were anticipating that since C7 of Sword-shisho.

If you *haven't* read it, you ***should***. It's adorable.

※※※

Author's Note:
I'm surprised about the fact that the number of unique weekly viewers has suddenly increased.
Thank you!

It's the third day since I met Fran.

We're still walking towards the town. To others, I would be invisible due to the wrappings put in place while being carried on Fran's back. If someone spots a loosened portion and sees me, then I have no excuse.

『Hey, will I be able to enter the town easily?』
「Nn?」
『There're no toll fees or identification cards needed?』
「I don't know.」

furufuru Fran shakes her head back and forth. Cute.

No, no, rather than that!

Fran was a Slave, so of course she wouldn't have done any entrance procedures. But, because of that, I have no information to go off of.

『So long as anyone else is present, information should be obtainable.』

But even if I say that, throughout these three days not a single trace of people has been seen.

There're no Peddlers nor Travelers — there's not even any bandits. Why? If there were any thieves, I'd be able to beat information out of them at least.

「It's not a highway.」

The Slave Trader seemed to move through a dangerous area for the sake of time. As a result, it was attacked by a Demonic Beast and wiped out. My condolences. Not towards the Trader, of course. He should have died alone without involving the Slaves.

『Hm? There're highways, huh.』

It seems that the purpose of highways are to avoid areas where Demonic Beasts appear frequently — to skirt areas where Humans shouldn't be, essentially.

『Where is the highway?』
「It'll appear if we keep walking.」
『I hope.』
「It'll be alright. Probably.」

Four hours have passed after she said that. We advanced leisurely while hunting Demonic Beasts as we walked.

Then, we discovered the long-awaited highway.

『Alright! The road!』

The road is far better than the animal trails we had used thus far; even the grass is removed. Instead, the ground is worn through its long history of people coming and going; traces of wheels can be seen clearly, too. Without a doubt, it's a highway.

Fran continues towards the town with her Sense of Direction.

「*Mu*, reaction of living creatures.」
『They don't seem to be people. Perhaps Goblins?』
「Hunt?」
『Just in case. We might be able to sell their materials, and their Magic Stones can be absorbed.』
「Roger.」

When I nodded using my body in consent, Fran deviated from the highway and began to run. She's already gained the ability to run between the trees like the wind using Skills like Leg Strength ↑ and such.

「There.」

It seems that their plan was to ambush anyone passing through, because Goblins had hidden themselves in bushes on the side of the highway. There're 3 total. Fran erases her presence and goes around to the Goblin at the back of their formation. Without a sound, it's struck from behind.

「*Fuu.*」
「Gi?」

Its body is cut down from behind, and it crumbles to the ground with a **gurari** [1]

「***Haa!***」

Because my Skill level has rose, the Sword Technique Double･Slash

could be activated with reduced movements, thus cutting through the remaining two bodies. The Goblins didn't even know what happened.

The entire battle had finished before the first body had even fallen to the ground.

「Teacher, please.」
『Mhm. Leave it to me.』

After absorbing the Magic Stone, I cut off the horns of the Goblins, which can supposedly be used as materials. The remaining bodies were thrown into Dimensional Storage. It would be bad if I had left them unattended near the highway and a large Demonic Beast followed their scent, after all.

「Teacher, another Goblin.」
『There was still one left, huh.』
「What should we do?」
『It's running in a straight line, shall we take it?』
「Nn.」

Once again, Fran starts to run. However, an unexpected development unfolded because of that decision.

「*Shit!* Get away from me, damn Goblins!」
「Giigigi!」
「Guru*RUA*!」

A lone carriage was being attacked by Goblins. The Goblins numbered 6, while there was only one person on the side of the carriage.

『Perhaps the Goblins from before were on lookout?』

While their fiends attacked the carriage, they would watch for Adventurers; such was real plan, perhaps.

「Help?」
『Yeah. In the meantime, do your best old man!』

After erasing her presence once again, a surprise attack from behind is launched. Three bodies were cut down using the shortened movement of Triple・Thrust. The power of three consecutive thrusts is weak, but against Goblins there're no problems.

「I-I'm saved!」
「***Giii!***」
「Noisy.」

Fran, who suddenly appears her opponents, chops down the Goblins which raise cries of intimidation with a **zashuzashu**

The final Goblin turns heel in order to escape, but Fran throws me and deals a decisive blow. Thanks to the Throwing Skill, its stomach is accurately penetrated. I intended to make adjustments mid-flight in secret if I went astray, but it wasn't necessary.

「T-thank you, young lady. You saved me.」
「Nn.」
「You're… Quite strong. Are you traveling alone?」
「Nn?」
「Well, you don't have to tell me if you don't want to.」

Fran is reticent, but it seems that the man misunderstood based off of her attitude. Well, I don't want to transfer our poor information, so I'm grateful for that. Mentally, I directed Fran to keep the misunderstanding as-is.

「If you'd like, would you like to hitch a ride on my carriage? I'm headed towards Aressa.」

The name of the town we were headed to seems to be Aressa. The man of gentle manners in front of us seems quite determined, however. [2]

His aim seems to be obtaining an escort while simultaneously offsetting the favor we earned by fending off the Goblins.

However, because we wanted information, we decided to take up his offer. But shouldn't the debt of having one's life saved not be so light?

I use Fran as a middleman to relay my thoughts.

「Hire as an escort?」
「Ah, yes. Of course.」

Fufun. Don't force a smile.

「Information in exchange. That's good enough as a fee.」
「Hahahaha, interesting! I like it! Get on!」
「Nn.」
「The name's Randell. You?」
「Fran.」
「Then, best regards on the journey, Lady Fran.」

I don't forget to strip off the horns of the Goblins before getting into the carriage. I then proceeded to immediately ask him a question. Through Fran, that is.

「Do Goblin horns sell?」
「Goblin horns huh〜, they do, but they're terribly cheap. As a catalyst for Magic, its quality is the worst.」

Is that so? I suppose stripping all of those off was just a waste of time, then. Randell continues, however.

「But even if that's the case, if you take it to the Adventurers Guild, you should be able to get a reward seeing as they're pegged to be exterminated upon discovery.」

The description from Appraisal said the same thing, Thinking about it, that description is quite arbitrary...

The description clearly explained that Goblins were hostile to essentially everything, but in the first place, who wrote that description? God? If we assume that, then it would probably be God's side who destroyed the Evil God, so the description depicting "Evil" would be biased.

Looking at it from a Goblin's perspective, they might feel that justice is on their side, and Humans are evil.

Well, even if that's the case I'm not complaining or anything. I just killed a bunch of Goblins, after all. Only good-natured people would feel conflicted in the face of that explanation. As soon as it was discovered, they would have a feeling of guilt. As for me, because it was written that they were "Evil", I could simply use that as my excuse. Or rather, I should say that my desire to hunt only grew because of that fact.

That might have been the purpose that whoever wrote the description was aiming for. It could have been to kindle people like me to hunt those of the "Evil" faction.

As expected, could the one who wrote the explanation really be God? Come to think of it, when I was reincarnated into this world I had heard a powerful voice, so perhaps that was God. Then it's fine if they're a good natured person, right? Yeah, that's how it is. Even if they tried to manipulate me, I wouldn't know of it at least. Or perhaps that's their strategy? No, no but……

Stop, stop. If I start doubting everything randomly without information, I'll just be stuck in an endless cycle. There's no harm at the moment, so I'll just stop thinking so deeply.

「But really, I'd have never expected a group of Goblins to attack on this route.」
「Is that so?」
「Yeah. This is a road which is visited by Adventurers regularly, after all.」

Adventurers. They even have a Guild, this really is a fantasy, huh. [3] I'm looking forward to going to the Guild later.

「Personally, I can only fend off one or two Goblins at a time.」

By the way, Randell's Status looks like this:

Name : Randell Age : 39
Race : Human
Job : Merchant
State : Normal

Status:
Level : 20
HP : 62 MP : 85 STR : 30 END : 31 AGI : 34 INT : 45 MGC : 40 DE

Skills:
Transportation : Lv3, Coachmenship : Lv2, Negotiation : Lv2, Arithmetic

Titles:
None

Equipment:
Inferior Iron Spear, Leather Breastplate, Spider Silk Overcoat

Well, one-on-one against a Goblin he wouldn't lose, but being surrounded would be pretty harsh. There's only a difference of four levels, but the status of Randell compared to the cheat-like Fran is terrible.

「For some reason, the Demonic Beasts have become are a bit more active than a month ago.」

A month ago, huh. About the time I captured Area 5, then.

「Why?」
「Not sure. Well, it might have to have something to do with

Maokami[5] Plains , though.」
「Maokami Plains?」
「You don't know? It's classified as a Rank A Haunt that's located to the East of here.」
「Famous?」
「Of course. Although it's inferior to the sizes of another 10 Haunts, it's still Rank A.」

"Haunts" seem to refer to areas under the control of Demonic Beasts, Dungeons included. The Ranks have a range of G ~ S, with A being second from the top.

It's not at the level of the 10 Haunts classified as Rank S, but Rank A is dangerous enough despite that.

In such a place, I hunted frequently. So, if you were to talk about the Bosses, they were universally recognized as Strong.

But that's not what concerned me. I try to ask a question through Fran.

「Why is it called Maokami Plains?」
((See [5] to understand the stuff Sword-shisho thinks about below.))

In that Plain there were a few Demonic Beasts of the wolf type, but rather than one of them being an Area Boss, there was a feline instead. And so, I don't understand why it would be called Maokami Plains.

「Legend has it that long ago, a Demonic Beast of Rank S called a Fenrir passed away in those Plains. In the center of the Plain, the Magic Power of the Fenrir still seems to persist, so the Plains seem to have the interesting characteristic of having weaker Demonic Beasts the closer you get to the center.」

So rather than some sort of barrier, it was actually the Magic Power of Fenrir? Moreover, it was a dead one? Without those boundaries I

would have lived quite a harsh life, so I'd like to genuinely show my gratitude to that Fenrir.

Still, for what reason was I stuck in such a place? It's quite worrying.

「I had heard that there's some sort of altar in the center of the Plains, but I don't know of its origins. It seems that various people checked it, but it remained unclear.」

『Eh? What about me? Is there no information regarding the sword stuck in the middle?』

「In the altar, was there a sword?」
「A sword? Not that I know of.」

『*Hm—m*. I thought that I would have been able to understand my origin, but I guess it won't be that easy.』

Randell didn't have any more information regarding the Plains. How regrettable.

「Maokami Plains is also surrounded by a special forest which has the special property of depleting Magic, too.」

I had quite the trouble with that already. I don't want to enter that place ever again.

「Thanks to that, the Demonic Beasts of Maokami Plains don't wander outside, but it's not like it doesn't have an impact on the outside either. You see, every few years there's a sort of territorial dispute in the Plains, and a battle between Large Demonic Beasts occurs.」

I suppose that would be something like an alteration of generations for the Area Bosses?

「At that time, Demonic Beasts from the forest are sometimes scared

off, and become quite aggressive. Being frightened by the signs of stronger Demonic Beasts, some appear around the highway. That's why, it's possible that the cause for the Goblins this time could have been another territorial dispute, see?」

That... Is definitely my fault. I hunted all of the Area Bosses, so the aftermath of the battle likely resulted in a turf war. Tehepero.

Randell was at a loss as to whether he would be able to retrace his path back to the highway, but in the end he seems to advance by force because he has to meet a deadline.

Hahaha... Sorry Randell. I won't charge any additional fees for acting as your escort as an apology. So, seriously. Sorry.

---

[1] Sound effect for shaking violently. "Thump" would have been similar, but wouldn't have the same effect.

[2] To get them on the Carriage, I think. しかしこの男、優男に見えて結構強かだな。

[3] I won't ask why Sword-shisho didn't mention how Adventurers were fantasy-like until now, seeing as the word was thrown around quite a bit. It's probably just that the Author couldn't find a good place to mention it, though.

[4] Speech actually uses "術" — which is "Arts" in all of the combat stuff, so I felt a little like making this "Speaking Arts", but "Speech" is good enough, right?

[5] "Maokami" is a combination of "魔" (Demon/Devil/Evil Spirit/etc.) and "狼" (Wolf). They're pronounced "Ma" and "Ookami" respectively. Because it's a name, I stuck with an onomatopoeia.

Chapter 16: Arrival at the Town of Aressa

Ensig:
Just in case it wasn't clear, "Randell" actually has two "l"s because it's pronounced "Rand-elle" not like a weird spelling of "Randal". Just thought I'd mention that so that your mental-reading is accurate.

What, you don't read things by having a voice recite the lines in your head?

Weirdo.

As for notes related to the story, if you haven't already noticed, I've changed the drop-down menu a bit for Sword-shisho and separated the viewable chapters by number.

It's hard to explain, but I'm sure you'll get it if you just take a look yourself.

The reason for this change is simply to keep the amount of scrolling necessary to a minimum.

Anyways. This chapter's shorter than most… But that doesn't mean I'll do a double release or something. I had to finish off moving stuff that was stored in my previous house today, so I was occupied for a good 6 hours. Or maybe more. **shrug**

Enjoy the chapter.

※※※

We continued to be tossed about in Randell's carriage for two hours.

「Oh, I can see Aressa!」

Atop a hill, I saw what appeared to be walls. Although, even if I say that I saw them, it was still quite distant. It's a distance that seems like it'd take another two hours to reach.

Still, it's quite large. According to Randell, it seems to be the biggest town in this area, with a population of around 10,000. The only Adventurer's Guild in the area also seems to be in Aressa.

That reminds me, I forgot to ask about something important.

「How much is the entrance fee of the town?」
「Ah, it's 300 Gorudo.」

Crap, I don't have enough. What should we do? Goblin Horns seem to be too cheap if they're sold to anyone other than the Adventurer's Guild...

That being the case, I should also ask about the prices of other things as well. That way, I can calculate the necessary expenses, and plan for the future.

「How much per night at an inn? Cheap ones are OK.」
「An inn, huh... The lowest rank inn would be about 200 Gorudo. Of course, rooms like that would come without meals.」

I also asked about prices of other things. The average meal is 50 Gorudo, a loaf of bread is 10 Gorudo, a cheap knife is 300 Gorudo, and using a bathhouse is 20 Gorudo per visit.

Those seem to be the rough values, at least. 1 Gorudo is about 10 yen, it seems.

As for money... The coin rankings are: Copper Coins → Large Copper Coins → Silver Coins → Large Silver Coins → Gold Coins → Large Gold Coins. It takes 10 coins of the same kind to go up a rank. Even though Randell's a merchant, it seems that he's never seen a Large Gold Coin.

「How much for Goblin Horns at the Guild?」
「One pair would be 20 Gorudo. Merchants would buy them for about 5 Gorudo per pair, though.」

Cheap! Goblins are really cheap! If you didn't hunt 10 a day you'd be unable to pay the inn's charges……

But what should we do? Even if we sold the 8 pairs of horns to Randell, we still wouldn't reach 300 Gorudo.

While being troubled, my Presence Detection showed a reaction. It belongs to something further ahead on the highway.

I tell Randell to slow down, and then proceed to scout ahead. Regular old Goblins were hiding in the bushes, it seems. As always, we'll counter using an ambush of our own.

The battle is finished in an instant with Fran's swordplay and my Magic. While collecting the horns of the five Goblins, I catch sight of a sword one of them were carrying. Wooden Clubs wouldn't be worth anything because they're nothing more than large branches, but I'm sure that a sword would be worth something, at least.

『Lucky. If we sell this to Randell, we just might reach 300 Gorudo.』

When we return to the carriage, Randell buys the sword for 200 Gorudo. Its price was higher than expected.

「That much?」
「It's made out of Bronze, but it's in good condition. Adventurers would surely buy it if it were put for sale.」

That really was lucky. With this, we'll be able to enter the town. Of course, the horns will be sold to the Guild, too.

As we continued along the highway, we hunted another Demonic Beast, which Randell bought. It was a black bug known as the Black Beetle. Its length was about 50cm long. It seems that its exoskeleton

is used to make protective gear for beginners, so he bought it for 20 Gorudo.

Still, Demonic Beasts are quite cheap. Its materials could be used to make protective gear, yet it's only priced at 20 Gorudo? Well, I suppose being a lower ranked Demonic Beast would also contribute to that, though. Aiming for weapons carried by Goblins would likely be more effective. As expected, it's the fate of Goblins to be hunted by me.

◇◆◇

「So, Randell, were you able to return safely?」
「While traveling, there were a number of times it became quite dangerous.」
「*Ahh*. Who's the young lady?」
「I picked her up along the way. I'll be taking care of her Admission Procedures as well.」
「Alright. Your luck must have been good for coming across Randell's carriage. Randell's quite strong, so having him around would be quite reassuring, right?」

Towards the words of the middle-aged Gatekeeper, Randell smiles wryly. In actuality, it was Fran who protected and escorted Randell, after all.

However, because revealing that fact would have been unnecessarily conspicuous, we decided upon the scenario of Randell picking up and escorting a young girl along his trip.

「Alright, that'll be 300 Gorudo. Here's your temporary entrance certificate. It's valid for 3 days. Because re-entry costs money again once it wears off, be careful!」

Alongside that information, I had already learned that if one has an official identification as the town's inhabitant, or an Adventurer card, entering the town seems to be free. Because of that fact, I

wanted to hurry and obtain an Adventurer card.

「Welcome to the town of Aressa!」

Joining the Adventurer's Guild doesn't seem to have an age restriction. There is, however, an aptitude test that needs to be taken before the card is issued.

「Well, I'll be heading back to the shop. I suppose Fran will be going to the Adventurer's Guild?」
「Unn.」
「My store's along the West side of main street, so if you have time please pay me a visit.」

After saying so, Randell went on his way.

Even as he left, he didn't say anything else. Even though it could only be seen as naïve, he let a young girl that was walking along the road alone accompany him without even knowing her circumstances. Even until the end, he didn't ask of anything but her name. He was a genuinely good natured person.

After we've collected some money, we should pay him a visit. A visit to the man who was our first companion on our journey.

『Well, let's get going.』
「Nn.」

Chapter 17: My Insignificant Doubts

Ensig:
Just so you're aware, I'll be changing some things in the previous chapter in accordance to this post. Or... I would have, if there was anything to change.

Yeah. Turns out Sword-shisho refers to what I *thought* would be "Monsters" as literal "Demonic Beasts". This: 魔獣 — which could also be "Magic Beasts".

One might think "Well, because they have 'Magic Stones' shouldn't the change happen?" but that would be incorrect. This is because "Magic Stones" can also be "Demon Stones". Yep: 魔石. If you didn't catch on already, 魔 can mean "Magic" or "Demon" among other things, which is why this is the case.

I considered changing all of the Demonic Beasts into Magic Beasts — because not all of them will be "Demonic" I'm sure, but because a so-called Evil God was in a certain description, I'll keep it as-is until an "Intelligent Demonic Beast" shows up. And by "intelligent" I mean "capable of differentiating good and bad, and thinking they're 'good'".

And so, this chapter's title was *incredibly* convenient, as my doubts over the identity of Demonic Beasts was all for nothing!

Enjoy!

※※※

We walk over to the Adventurer's Guild through the road that Randell had taught us.

H—mm. It's quite a beautiful town. It looks like a European-like town from the middle ages. It's got a good feeling of "fantasy"

floating about.

Also, this is the first time since I've come to this world that I've seen so many Humans. That alone would be enough to raise my spirits.

I only became more excited, because we ended up walking within a large group of people, each of different races. There was an old Kemonomimi with a fluffy tail, a big-breasted woman who ruined my image of Erofus — er, Elves.[1] There're also a wide variety of other races walking about, like bearded Dwarves.

Mixed among the crowd, I was able to see the figures of Adventurer-like people here and there, too.

After confirming a couple of their statuses, I find that there doesn't seem to be anyone that can match Fran. I'd like it if we can find someone with a close status.

In addition: Fran's sheer number of Skills as well as the levels of said Skills are overwhelmingly higher than most. The highest Skill Level I saw was from a guy with Lv5 Sword Arts. I know the difference between that level and Lv7 well.

It's possible that if they utilized Skills or Status values, they might be able to win... Because I've fought on the Plain, I understand this fact.

Or rather, the difference of Status makes little difference in the face of Skills. But it's jus because of this that I don't think Fran will have a problem fitting in with adventurers.

But still, I couldn't help being a bit depressed for a different reason.

The reason is the performance of the other Adventurers' weapons.

Name : High-Quality Steel Longsword

ATK : 398 MP : 5 Durability : 600

Magic Power Conductivity・F

Skills:
None

My form is equivalent to that Longsword, and yet... Its ATK is superior to mine. I have a feeling of loss as a sword.

To add insult to injury, there's its material: Good-Quality Steel. In other words, Mithril and Orichalcum — the so-called legendary metals — lost to simple Steel. That... That's depressing.

After that, weapons, all boasting higher attack power than me, jump into my eyes. 1 in 5 people would have one better than me.

And, hung at the waist of the man who was walking before me, was this:

Name : Mithril Alloy Dagger

ATK : 423 MP : 20 Durability: 700

Magical Power Conductivity・D+

Skills:
None

『Ha... *Hahahaha*.....』

I can't do anything but laugh. *Aah*. I was ***weak***. I defeated Demonic Beasts, thinking that I was so clever. But in reality, I was simply a sword with an excess of decorations.

「What's wrong?」
『Aah, Fran. I'm already useless.』
「？」

I explained the situation to Fran; about how I was an inferior Sword if you look past the Skills — more inferior to any random weapon, at that. Surely, it was some upstart nouveau riche who made me.

pat pat

Fran pats me after I finished the explanation.

『Fran……』
「Nn.」
『Are you comforting me?』
「Teacher has Skills.」

Hm…? Wait… Wait, that's right, girl! I may be inferior to the average sword in attack power, but I can support with Skills! Or rather, that's my only worth! Then it's decided! I'll become the king of Skills!

However, it would be best to buy a proper sword, as opposed to an inferior one like me, right? You'll have no choice but to use me for now, but I'll buy a strong sword for you eventually!

Therefore, we should register with the Adventurer's Guild, and earn money energetically!

『Alright! I'm sorry to have worried you. I'm fine now, so let's go to the Adventurer's Guild!』
「Nn.」

An excessive amount of time was taken because of my moping, but we've finally arrived at the Adventurer's Guild.

『It's large…』

It was considerable size compared to the surrounding buildings. The size was likely due to the amount of Adventurers which come here.

『I have a request!』

I'm all fired up! — Ah, but no one heard me.

The inside is cleaner than I thought it would be. I expected its interior to look like some form of dingy pub, with an overpowering impression and cluttered interior, but… The front desk seems like it belongs to an expensive hotel.

Well, if it looked terrible, I suppose that would stain the reputation of the Guild.

However, when a 12-year-old girl walked in, a considerable amount of attention was drawn. While we walk up to the counter, the eyes of the surrounding Adventurers are following us.

「Register.」
「Ah, yes. Are you alone?」
「Alone.」
「Erm… This is the Adventurer's Guild, so……」
「I know.」

It seems that in this world, a 12-year-old girl coming alone to register to be an Adventurer is rare. Their weapons and protective gear are perfect, and so despite her only being 12 years old and giving off an atmosphere that shows discipline from a young age, the mumbling continues to increase. [2] Even when I was a child I acted better than them.

Fran doesn't have any armor, either. Rather, her appearance is quite shabby, which would only be common for runaway slaves.

We're too out-of-place.

I recovered from my thoughts once the Receptionist starts to explain.

「Anyone can register, but there'll be a test.」

「Nn.」
「It'll be a test of fighting forms, but is that alright?」
「Good.」
「Are you really sure? You could get injured…」
「Unconcerned.」
「Well… If anything happens, the Guild takes no responsibility.」
「Alright.」
「So, you still wish to do it……? I understand. Just a moment, please.」

She probably understood that Fran genuinely wanted to take the test. The Adventurers become a bit noisy.

There wasn't anyone who started a quarrel, but the atmosphere is nowhere near welcoming. A child taking on an Adventurer's test… It likely rubbed them the wrong way.

That would be natural. If I was in their position, I would likely feel the same way.

『Are you alright, Fran?』
「？」
『Well, it's fine even if you don't understand.』

After a few moments, the Receptionist returns.

「Sorry to have kept you waiting. This way, please.」
「Nn.」

At the back of the Guild was a spacious area surrounded by walls on all sides. It seems that this is the Guild's training ground, or at least something similar.

A rugged man is standing in the middle of the grounds. His height would be about 2 meters. He's wearing rough black body armor, which looks like it would be sharp to the touch; he looks just like a High King ruling at the end of a century[7]. A huge Battleaxe is

leaning against his side, which doubles his overpowering impression. From behind him, I can practically see the **gogogogo** [3] sound effects.

If it was a regular child, they would cry as soon a they laid eyes upon him. Even I, who was used to the pressure of Demonic Beasts, was slightly surprised.

「Are you the registration applicant?」

Uo—o. Through his glare alone, that powerful of intimidation increases.

「Nn.」

However, Fran doesn't seem to be frightened at all. It's the same attitude as always. My girl is a big shot! [4]

「I'm your testing examiner, Donnadorondo[5]」

There're way too many "do"s... It's difficult to say. He doesn't look like a Donna either.

「The contents of the examination are easy. You have to fight me. If you're defeated too easily, you don't pass!」
「Understood.」
「Just so you're aware, I'm not good at holding back. When I fight, I do it seriously. If you don't want to fight, now's the time to leave!」

The moment Donnadorondo shouted that, a terrible pressure fell over us. Isn't this obviously the Coercion Skill [6]? Doesn't that mean that the fight has already begun?

『Alright, let's do it!』
「Nn!」

[1] Once again: Kemonomimi = Human + Animal Traits — just like Fran.
You could see Erofu is a combination of “Erotic” and “Elf”. Essentially Elves from hentai/porn/eroge. If you don’t know what those three things are, you’re untainted, so run away while you still can.

[2] So, it mentions a **buibui** here, which could be a Pig sound effect, or essentially slang for “complaining”, so I simply changed it into “mumbling”. It also mentioned 狩人 (Hunter), but I’m pretty sure that’s just referring to all the Adventurers watching. Still, because I’m unsure, advice is welcome! 狩人としてブイブイ言わせてますけど何か

[3] Used usually in the background of scenes with a lot of tension. Like facing down a powerful opponent in a manga. Each “go” looks like this: ゴ

[4] Just so you’re aware, every time he said “girl” after he was equipped, it could have also meant “daughter”. 娘

[5] It sounds pretty weird, but it’s supposed to. You should put it into Google’s audio translator or something. ドナドロンド

[6] It’s not Intimidation (威嚇), but rather Coercion (威圧). I’m just mentioning that because I had to double check to make sure. 明らかに威圧のスキルを使ってるよな？

[7] Reference to Raoh from Hokuto no Ken. Thanks to **midoyashii** for pointing that out!

Chapter 18: VS Donnadorondo

Ensig:
There's cussing, gore, a good dose of violence, and overall badassery in this chapter. If you're reading this and you don't like any of that…

Too bad, I guess. Maybe give it a read and then run over to Gentle Demon to purify your mind? Otherwise, you could take a look at my own work (which is becoming increasingly neglected because these stories are getting too good) — there's no gore in that… Yet.

Anyways, enjoy the chapter!

※※※

Standing in the Adventurer Guild's training grounds, we stand face to face against our examiner. There's a fierce sense of intimidation in the air.

If I was still a human, I have the feeling that I'd kneel on the ground and beg for my life. But as a sword, so I'm fine.

Well, let's see what he's made of.

Name : Donnadorondo Age : 46
Race : Kijin[1]
Job : Great Warrior
State : Normal

Status:
Level : 38
HP : 346 MP : 173 STR : 178 END : 163 AGI : 101 INT : 90 MGC : 81

Skills:
Coercion : Lv4, Transportation : Lv3, HP Recovery Rate ↑ : Lv5, Danger P

Titles:
Guild Instructor

Equipment:
Greataxe of Heavy Wrought Steel, Sovereign Black Iron Turtle Armor, Cl

Uge—e! ***Strong!*** In terms of Status it's our complete defeat! This old man... His physical abilities exceed that of the Lesser Wyvern! In addition to that, he has a variety of Skills at high levels. His equipment is also at a whole other level.

Name : Greataxe of Heavy Wrought Steel

ATK : 650 MP : 3 Durability : 650

Magical Power Conductivity・E+

Skills:
None

650 ATK? You've got to be fucking kidding me! [4] That's absolutely mortifying!

He's also a member of the cool-named Race called the Kijin. [5]

The title of the Instructor is no joke, either. All the Adventurers we've seen thus far don't hold a candle to this man.

This fellow is coming at us full-force? Seriously? This is a Beginner test, right? If it was a normal beginner, I can't think that they'd be able to do anything but lose outright……

Ah well, let's give it a try. Even if we don't win, we should show off our abilities at least.

『Fran, are you ready?』
「O—K.」

「Let's begin!」

The figure of Donnadorondo becomes hazy.

And Fran jumps to the side immediately.

Go!

「One, avoided!」
『Not good –!』

When I noticed, there was already an Axe right beside us in mid-swing. It was at a speed that would be unimaginable from someone with such a large body. Moreover, looking at how the ground is becoming hollow, his power is also immense.

「*Muun!*」

In addition to the already present swing, he strikes the Axe to increase its speed further.

DOGOON!

The ground was gouged, and stones became nothing but gravel, scattering across the ground. Fran's bangs shift due to the wind pressure.

Hey, wasn't that first strike just now incredibly dangerous? Even though it was only a grazing blow… I've already taken a serious amount of damage. This is too much, right?! How could you pass this exam with thus guy?!

『It'd be dangerous to run away… In that case, let's attack!』

I refuse to wait-and-see. Before receiving another dangerous attack like that, I'll go at him at maximum force. I won't worry about killing him; the other side is overwhelmingly strong, and even if his HP became 0 his bracelet would simply become a sacrifice.

「*Haa!*」
「*Ho*? This one's quick!」

The blow was easily caught with the axe. Even when secretly supported by AGI and STR raising Skills, this person still overcomes it.

However, his win isn't certain.

To prevent any continuous attacks against Fran, Donna's lower body is bound by tentacles.

「*Nuu?!* **Aria Destruction!**」

Fufun. Don't be so surprised. Fran didn't emit any Spells — she didn't even chant.

To tell you the truth, I alone am capable of invoking Magic without any trace. And so, Donnadorondo, who needs to deal with Fran, wasn't able to avoid any Magic aimed at his feet. Contrary to his situation, Fran nimbly jumped backwards and released an attack.

Donna was confined, and only capable of moving his upper body, so he's at the mercy of Fran's assault. All he can do is receive it. Eat it.

「——**Tri・Explosion**!」
「*NuoOOhh!*」

Donnadorondo was engulfed by the Lv10 Fire Magic. It's am attack that's difficult to prevent, as explosions come from three directions simultaneously. Of course, Fran had only pretended to invocate it; in truth, I had used that Technique.

Doing it this way, while I chant, Fran can hold a Sword Technique in reserve.

「*Fuuuu*... **Dragon・Fang**!」

This is a thrusting Sword Technique of Lv7. Moreover, Vibration Fang is used alongside it. The small figure of Fran rushes over to the large body of Donna, who can't move due to the explosion.

I wonder if he noticed the real nature of the Skills that Fran was using? Donnadorondo opens his eyes wide as his face makes an expression of surprise.

「This girl is……!」

However, even if he notices it, avoidance is impossible.

「The end.」
「***Guggaaaah!***」

The attack pierced through to Donna's flank, sending his gigantic build flying.

Doon!

His body, which likely exceeded 200 kilos., was blown 10 meters away and embedded into the wall of the training grounds.

I had only used this technique against Demonic Beasts, so I suppose this would be what happens when it's used against a humanoid opponent.

But… Perhaps we overdid it? I don't think he's dead, but…

「…… **Gofu**……」

Excellent, he's alive. While vomiting large quantities of blood, Donnadorondo seemed to remain conscious.

Fran approaches slowly. Will you be using Recovery Magic? While I considered what she'd do, I was thrust before the eyes of Donna.

「Pass?」

Mhh, that was a composed decision. As for me, I had already completely forgotten about the exam.

「..... You... Pass.」
「Understood.」

This fellow... He can still move? What a sturdy guy. Even though he was pierced through the flank, to my surprise, Donnadorondo steps out of the wall and begins to laugh. Taking a quick look at his Status, his HP has already recovered to about 300, and his wound is closing, too.

「*Hahahahaha!* You're the first rookie to have ever given me damage!」

His toughness is already monster-class, seriously. Does someone who can kill this man even exist?

「**Donnadorondo!**」

I hear a deafening roar, followed by the receptionist rushing over.

「I *told* you not to do anything unreasonable, so what was — Eh?」

Ahh. I see.

This old man... He's sent out to repel any unhatched beginners, isn't he? If that's the case, I suppose it would be unexpected that Fran was the one who sent the other side flying.

「Eh? *Ehh?*」

It seems that the receptionist is quite surprised to see Donna seriously injured.

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[1] It's essentially "Oni/Ogre Person" — but I wasn't sure whether I should just make it "Oni/Ogre" or not, seeing as there'll likely be a

Demonic Beast of that exact Race… So, onomatopoeia! If anyone has a better suggestion, feel free! 鬼人

[2] Both “Playback” and “Revival” have to do with coming back from the dead. 再生 and 起死回生

[3] The bracelet is 身代りの腕輪, which could also be “Sacrificial Bracelet” — so essentially another thing related to revival. It’d take his place if he died, essentially.

[4] Just TRY to translate ふざけんな without cussing while staying true to the writing. I dare you.

[5] No, this isn’t me praising my naming sense. It’s really there. 種族も鬼人とかいう、かっこいい種族だし。

※※※

Ensig:
Even though I’ve gotta do something early tomorrow (today?) morning… Translating this was 100% worth it~!

| **Main** |

Chapter 19: We Joined the Guild

「*Ahahaha!* Well—, I lost!」
「Donna, this is no laughing matter.」

After the examination, Fran and I were brought by Donnadorondo to the top floor of the Adventurer's Guild.

Waiting for us was a thin, blond, fair-skinned man. If one looked at his ears, they would discover he was an Elf. At first glance he seems weak, but……

Name : Klimt[1] Age : 136
Race : Wood Elf
Job : Greater Spirit User
State : Normal

Status
Level : 67
HP : 180 MP : 616 STR : 87 END : 89 AGI : 138 INT : 259 MGC : 333 D

Skills
Chant Shortening : Lv7, Appraisal : Lv5, Archery : Lv3, Harvesting : Lv5,

Unique Skills
Favor of the Spirits

Titles
Guild Master, Guardian Deity of Aressa, Master of Nature, Master of Soil

Equipment
Staff of the Old God's Cherry Tree, Scale Clothing of the Fission Snake, C

It was a man who exceeded Donna. Those Magic Skills are just too

dangerous. Spirit Magic also seems to be quite rare. As expected of a Guild Master.

「First, let me hear your name.」
「Fran.」
「Age?」
「12.」

Donna howled at the words of Fran.

「What? You really are as old as you look!」

Ahh, I suppose it would be like that. Looking at Fran's abilities, it would be easy to think that she was actually a member of a long-lived race. Otherwise, it would be quite bizarre, given her appearance.

「Donna…」
「*Ah*—, excuse me.」

Donna, who was rebuked by the Guild Master, shrugged his shoulders. Not cute at *all*. However, his manners are completely different than the one before the examination. At the time he the embodiment of Fun'nu [4], but now he has the feel of of a good-natured uncle.

「However… I understand how you feel. Only 12 years old, and yet capable of using Sword Techniques directly after firing off Lv10 Fire Magic — without a chant, even? Is that some kind of joke?」

The Guild Master furrows his brow. His eyes become sharp, as if peering deep into Fran.

「Moreover… You have a Appraisal blocking Skills?」

That reminds me, this person has Appraisal, doesn't he? He likely tried to find out whether the story told by Fran was a lie using it. However, it was intercepted.

At times like these, my Self-Evolution Points were well-used. The nice thing about this Skill is that it effects Fran as well as me, unlike some Skills.

Appraisal Concealment：A Skill used to inhibit the use of Appraisal on the user. When equipped with this ability, Appraisal of the user's equipment is also blocked.

However, because of this Skill doubt has surfaced.

「So, according to you, you're 12. But where did you come from?」
「Secret.」
「..... Is there a reason for that?」
「Secret.」
「..... *Haa*... How troublesome.」

We—ll, I've become slightly anxious. He's trying to probe Fran.

「Pass? Fail?」
「I won't turn away someone strong enough to take on Donna.」
「Then, Guild Card.」
「... I understand. I'll prepare it now, so please fill in the necessary information on this form. If you cannot write, then perhaps I could do it on your behalf?」
「Unconcerned.」

On top of Fran's parents giving a good education, she was also taught how to read and write in order to increase her value as a Slave.

「Any skilled Adventurers are welcome! Right, Guild Master—?」
「*Haa*... That's right. The Spirits aren't being noisy either.」
「Spirits?」
「Even if you look around, only Spirit Users can see them.」
「What do they tell you?」
「Well, Spirits are sensitive to emotions. Therefore, depending on

their behavior I'm able to determine those with malicious intent, and those with a wicked heart.」

Spirits sure are convenient. I'd also like to use them by all means. The problem is whether there's a Demonic Beast that's capable of using Spirit Magic.

「Is there a Demonic Beast that can use Spirit Magic?」
「There're Spirits which feed on the malice of others, but even so they rarely devour such things from Demonic Beasts. Regrettably.」

I see. That's good news. That just means that there're some worth looking for.

「Guild Master, we're ready.」
「I see. Then, let's go.」

The Guild Master personally guides us to a small room adjacent to the front counter. There's something like an alter within the room, and a crystal ball is enshrined there.

「Please touch this. It will finish immediately.」
「Nn.」

Just as the Guild Master said, it finishes in an instant. It seemed to register Fran's Magical Power one way or another. Next to the crystal ball, the receptionist tinkers with the crystal ball. Pressing the card against it, the process seems to be completed.

「Now, to select a Job.」
「Job?」
「Yes. There're various benefits depending on the Job itself, but each person has their own aptitudes.」

Speaking of Jobs, Randell had been a "Merchant". Donna is a "Great Warrior" and the Guild Master is a "Greater Spirit User".

「For Jobs, Fran can choose..... Eh?」

「What's wrong, Nell?」[5]
「Her Job aptitude is a bit… Strange.」
「Hoh?」

I look at the screen from behind the Guild Master.

Warrior, Swordsman, Pugilist, Magic Swordsman, Blink Swordsman, Magician, Flame Magician, White Magician, Summoning Magician, Tamer, Spy, Doctor, Butcher[6], Cook

There're a lot. Job aptitude seems to depend on the Skills that Fran has equipped. There're also Spear Arts and Spear Techniques equipped, but it seems that there's no Job for them. Even though there're Jobs called Cook and Butcher…

「This is……」

Even the Guild Master is at a loss for words. Is this perhaps bad?

「Haa… Well, Magic Swordsman and Magician were to be expected after hearing of the battle with Donna.」

Ah, it seems to be alright. He's probably getting used to being surprised.

「Then, what will you choose?」
『Ask about his recommendation.』
「Suggestion?」
「Hmm. Because Magic Swordsman, Blink Swordsman, and Flame Magician are all intermediate Jobs, they're quite rare. The benefits gained from them will also be quite strong. If you wish to use both the sword and Magic, I recommend the Magic Swordsman. If it's just swords, then the Blink Swordsman. If you wish to focus on Magic, then perhaps the Flame Magician.」

I see. What to do……

『Which one would you like, Fran?』
（Magic Swordsman: cool.）
『Then, perhaps the Magic Swordsman?』

However, there's still one piece of information needed before the final choice.

「Change Jobs?」
「Yes. You may do so at the Guild at any time, however, only one Job's effects can be set at a time. So, if a high leveled Magic Swordsman changed to a Lv1 Blink Swordsman, their status would fall.」

Well, I don't mind because that's what I expected. If it can be changed anyways, then perhaps Magic Swordsman would be alright for now?

「Then, Magic Swordsman.」
「With this, the Guild Card has been completed.」

It looks like a regular bronze card. Fran's name, place of registration (Aressa), Job, and the Adventurer Rank of G are all listed.

「The Guild Card can be used as an identification card, and having it re-issued will cost 5,000 Gorudo. Because it's been registered via the Magic Power of the individual, it's only usable by that person alone. Be careful not to lose it.」

Other points, such as other cautions and its application in the Guild were then explained by the Guild Master. Usually this would be work of a receptionist, but in this case the Guild Master took care of it all personally.

Collecting all of the information together, it can be summarized as the following:

Regarding Guild requests:
An Adventurer can only take requests in accordance to their

Adventurer Rank. Specifically, they're only able to take requests one Rank above and below their own.

Under certain conditions, a Rank-up test can be requested.

For the color of the cards:
G and F are Copper, E and D are Black, C and B are Silver, A is Gold, and S is Platinum. Purchasing the materials required for the card isn't necessary.

There aren't any annual membership fees, but there is the possibility of being demoted or expulsion if an Adventurer doesn't take on a request for a certain period of time.

Betrayal against the Adventurer's Guild will result in a complete purge of rank, so it's best to be careful. In addition, it's best to be careful of trouble between Adventurers, because the Guild takes no responsibility.

That last piece of information was likely advice specifically for Fran. Didn't doing so just raise a flag, though?

「With this, you've become an Adventurer.」
「Nn.」
「Is there anything else you'd like to ask about?」

I've inquired about what I'd like to hear, but there's still one thing left to ask.

「Examination content, published?」
「No. Because it involves the ability of the Adventurer themselves, doing so would be reckless.」
「Alright.」
「Do you not wish to attract attention?」
「Don't want to.」
「Then I'll make you a promise. We three people: Donna, Nell from reception, and I will not reveal information regarding the

examination. Well, doing so would be convenient for us as well. Donna stands at the front of the Adventurers in case of emergencies, so it would be better to not reveal his loss.」
「I'll give my assent. If the little lady wants to keep it a secret, I understand.」
「I think that, given your abilities, you'll attract attention immediately regardless, but……」

U—mu. I can't refute that. Well, I guess it's fine that it's peaceful for now, at least?

---

[1] Easiest name to translate so far. It only has the option of being the name Klimt. クリムト

[2] A couple of notes regarding some of this guy's Skills.
First: I had previously translated 土魔術 as "Ground Magic"; now, however, it is **"Soil Magic"** — because 大地魔術 (which this guy has) is the *ACTUAL* Ground Magic. My best guess is that Ground is the LvMax Magic type gained through Soil Magic, like how Flame was to Fire. I've made the changes to C10 and C13 — but I can't remember if it was mentioned elsewhere, so if it was, tell me!
Second: Compounding is like the medicine compounding. It could also be "mixing" 調合

[3] Regarding the titles:
"Guardian Deity" can't just be "Guardian" because it's 守護神 (literally Guardian Deity).
Not sure why this guy has the Master of Nature title despite Nature Magic only being Lv6 but… **shrug** It's there. 樹木術師
For those who actually translate that on their own, it'll be "Tree/shrub Technique/Magic Practitioner/Master/Teacher" — but all the "Master" titles are like that. I made that change because it fit with the fact that the Skill needed to be maxed out, but… Perhaps I need to reconsider now that this one's arrived?

[4] This might just be a reference to a noise or something. "He was

all *Fuuーnuuu!* for example. But I have no clue. When I did a search, it brought me Duel-Master pages and this image, so this is just my best guess.
The image is fitting, after all. フンヌー

[5] Receptionist's name = ~~Flannel~~ Nell (ネル) apparently. -kun was also used, so I'm unsure of their gender at this point. In the previous chapter I had used "Ms. Receptionist" at the end, but it turns out that was just my machines being sexist. (受付嬢 = Receptionist or Reception Woman)
Because it's possible that the Guild Master simply uses -kun because Nell is likely way, way younger than him, and not directly equivalent to any sexual orientation. Not that that matters, *right*?

[6] "Butcher" is related to the Deconstruction Skill, but "Deconstructor" just doesn't sound right as a Job among the other ones, and "Demolitionist" brings the image of someone standing a couple hundred feet away and blowing stuff up, so… Yeah. Butcher *was* listed as an applicable translation, so I went with it.

※※※

Ensig:
If you haven't read about the status of the other works here yet, then please do so. Well, if you read other things here, that is. Seeing as I finished this chapter, you can ignore the info on Sword-shisho though.

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 20: Selling Materials

Ensig:
You may notice that the Author's note is irrelevant to the chapter.
Much like my rambling.

For the sake of accuracy, however, I've translated it anyways. I'll continue to do so in a similar manner in future chapters as well.

※※※

Author's Note:
My physical condition is a little poor.
Whether I update tomorrow or not is unknown.

「Would you like to take a request immediately?」

This was asked by Nell the receptionist. I was reminded by those words; after getting the Guild Card, there was so much to do that I forgot about it. And "it" was that we won't be able to stay at an inn if we don't sell our materials to the Guild.

「I have Goblin horns.」
「Ahh, in that case, I'll accept them at the request report counter. This way, please.」

Because Fran's a new Adventurer, Nell politely leads the way after his response. As one would accept from a receptionist of the Adventurers Guild. They're very thorough in educating their members.

「Also materials.」
「Ah, you can sell those at the material purchase counter. First, however, comes the payment for the Goblin Horns.」
「Nn.」

「8 sets, so that'll be 160 Gorudo total. Please confirm it.」

The amount needed to book a room at an inn hasn't been reached yet. The worst inn was supposedly 200 Gorudo, so we'll need just a bit more if we want to stay overnight.

We move over to the material purchasing counter after the transaction is verified.

「Have the materials already been dismantled? If not, they usually take up a lot of space, so it can be brought to the space beside the counter. If it's too large for that as well, we'll use a special room instead.」

Nell carefully explains. So, what should we do… Lower ranked Demonic Beasts are cheap, judging by the advice we were given in regards to the Goblins and Insects earlier. So, I suppose the minimum we should give should be intermediate or above? I have a couple of slightly larger ones, so perhaps those?

「Slightly big.」
「Then, I would like for it to be placed in the purchasing space. Are they currently stored at an inn? Materials should be managed carefully if they're expensive, so –」

Ahh, at first glance we don't look like we've brought anything, so I suppose his question is natural. However, when I was Appraising people earlier, I found many individuals with the Dimensional Storage Skill, so it shouldn't be unheard of. It should be fine if I take it out here and now because of that.

「Taking out.」

Of course, the materials are actually being taken out by me. This is one of the slight drawbacks of this Skill and Skill Sharing. Fran can use the Dimensional Storage Skill as well, but the storage is exclusive to Fran. Similarly, I can't share the contents of my storage

with Fran, so she obviously can't retrieve anything I've stored.

Fran assumes a stance that makes it seem as though she takes out the materials, and I place the materials where she directs.

At first, I take out beginner-class materials exclusively.

Among them is Fran's commemorative first prey, the Twin-Headed Bear's fur and claws. Because its innards can be used to make good medicine, they remain within the storage. I also leave them because it would make a disturbing scene if they were brought out. I bring out two sets of Poison Fang Rat pelts and fangs, and figure it would be best to stop there for now.

「When did you…?」
「While coming to town.」
「Did you also dismantle these yourself?」
「Yes.」

Some curious Adventurers became a little noisy in the surrounding area. *Oi*, don't laugh after glancing over here. Hmm… Could it be that the materials are worth even less than expected?

Then… Next I'll place one a bit better.

From Area 2 in the Plains, I take materials from 3 Demonic Beasts.

First are the sinister-looking wing membranes and resonating bones [1] of Giant Bats. Next are the fangs, fur, and skulls of Crashing Boars. Finally, I take out the shells and horns of Rock Bison.

Although they aren't strong Monsters [2], they should be enough to buy a few days worth of lodging at an inn, alongside cheap protective gear.

We could gain even more if I took out the materials from the Tyrant Saber or the Doppel Snake… But I refrained. Not only would doing

so attract too much attention, but the materials might be able to be used to make Fran weapons as well.

The Guild Master's scale clothing makes use of something similar to the scales of the Doppel Snake, and the cloak used by Donna made use of a Demonic Beast's fur similar to that of the Tyrant Saber. In other words, those materials would be ones which only high-ranking adventurers would be able to use in their equipment. It would definitely make a commotion if we sold such materials here.

Nell is making a slightly difficult face. As expected, it would be difficult to comprehend the fact that the young-aged Fran could take down strong Demonic Beasts — Demonic Beasts that even an adult male would have trouble defeating.

Nevertheless, the materials from low-grade Demonic Beasts wouldn't grant much income, so this is for the sake of getting funds. Even if it's a bit conspicuous, it would be better to finish it all at once.

That being the case, perhaps it would be better to sell off all of the lower and intermediate ranked Demonic beasts here and now…?

『Hey, what do you think?』
（One time is better.）
『Indeed! Then, I'll take out the rest!』

I take out several pouches worth of thread from Stone Spiders, as well as their carapaces and poisonous fangs. Next, I take out Burrowing Moles claws and fur, followed by the pelts and claws of the Paralysis Nailed Cat are then placed into the purchasing space.

Because I can use most of the meats to make meals for Fran, I leave them within the storage.

「All this.」
「…… Y-Yes. I see. I'll now use Appraisal, so please wait a moment.」

Nell uses Appraisal on each of the materials. That skill is incredibly versatile. Other receptionists are also called over, so in the end three people check over the materials.

Everything had gone through Appraisal after about 10 minutes.

「Sorry to have kept you waiting.」
「Nn.」
「Altogether, we'll purchase them all for 195,000 Gorudo total. Is that acceptable?」[3]

Ha? 195,000?! Seriously?! Isn't that way too high? I had thought that ~30,000 would have been satisfactory…

「Very high?」
「No, that's a reasonable price. Even though they're materials from Demonic Beasts with Threat Degrees of F an E, due to the fact that the state of the materials was extremely good, the price was increased.」

I didn't think of the material's state. But… Thinking about it, that would be correct. It would be outrageous to think that the price of a pelt covered with scratches would have the same price as a beautifully preserved one.

「For example: usually, the fur of a Twin-Headed Bear is purchased for 6,000 Gorudo. The fur you've brought, however, doesn't have any scratches. The deconstruction is perfect, and on top of that, the whole body was prepared. Because of that, its price was raised to 18,000 Gorudo.」

It tripled. Unbelievable… Since the other materials are also in such a state, the price would be reasonable… Right? Well, I'll accept it regardless.

「This is the reward. Please confirm it.」
「Nn.」

Fran tucks the money away in Dimensional Storage immediately.

「Then.」

With that, Fran turned her back to the counter.

「***Goraa!*** Wait just a second!」

---

[1] It's 共鳴骨. I'm not sure what "resonating bones" are — but it could also be "sympathy/sympathetic". Those're the only two options, so I went with "resonating" because it might related to the Bats' echolocation.

[2] The Author used 魔物 (Monster) here as opposed to 魔獣 (Demonic Beast). **gasp**

[3] There's no mistake, because it's in legitimate numbers (195000) in the raw.

※※※

Ensig:
The Flag.
It really* was *raised, huh?

Chapter 21: Cliché

Ensig:
I almost split this chapter into two parts because it's quite big, but… Well, I couldn't stop translating halfway through.

Be aware that this chapter contains vulgar language, gore, and ***satisfying-feeling ass-whooping***.

※※※

Author's Note:
I was right on time.

「***Goraa!*** Wait just a second!」

After receiving payment for the materials, we've been stopped by a single Adventurer right before leaving the Guild.

「Nn.」
「*Hey*, wait brat!」

Fran, who ignored the man, attempts to pass by through moving to the side. Because he blocked the way in such a flashy manner, he likely wasn't expecting to be completely ignored. Hurriedly, he moves to block Fran's route.

But Fran continues walking.

「Nn.」
「Didn't I say to wait?! Hey, are you listening?!」
「In the way.」
「Listen up and stop!」

Incredible. We really did experience such a refreshing template[1]

development. I'm slightly interested in this mob-like Adventurer.

『Fran, let's listen to him a little.』
「Nn? Understood.」
「It's fine if you understand.」

Looking at the man's appearance, he's a mob character no matter how you look at it. He has slightly-damaged Iron Shoulder Pads with spikes facing outward, the spikes seem to have design as a priority. For armor he's wearing pitch black Leather Armor with a smell I'd like to avoid experiencing no matter what, and a Battleaxe strapped to his back. Finally, he has a bald head that could only be seen by people cosplaying as a Bandit.

Ahh—, my reincarnation is worthwhile meeting this classic Fantasy element: The King・of・Mob character.

If his cheeks had scratches, he'd be perfect… Truly regrettable!

Moreover, 4 similar fellows came out in a stream behind him. It's a mob character festival! Woohoo~!

「Hey!」
「What?」

Mr. Mob raises his voice, and turns towards the astonished Nell.

「This is favoritism!」
「*Ha?* Favoritism?」
「Yeah! When I sold the pelt of a Twin-Headed Bear earlier, it wasn't bought for even 2,000 Gorudo!」

Listening to those words, Nell makes a deep sigh.

「*Ahh*, I remember. You're the party who brought the corpse of a Twin-Headed Bear that had scarring all over, one of its heads missing, and a badly bruised body, then demanded it be dismantled and sold, right?」

「That's right! We gave the same thing: a Twin-Headed Bear, so shouldn't we have gotten the same amount of cash?!」
「It's not the same at all. The materials that you brought in all had the lowest ratings possible.」
「*Haa?* Rating?」
「Good grief, this is why I hate muscle-brained mercenaries like you… Because your fighting power is alright, you act all high and mighty despite being a beginner. You don't understand even a fragment of what it means to be an Adventurer. Just drop dead.」

W-Woah. Nell had said it in a low voice, but I heard it. If possible, let's try not to oppose Nell from now on.

「Your group had surrounded the Twin-Headed Bear, and recklessly stabbed it from all sides, correct?」
「Yeah. We lured it in with bait, and then all 5 of us attacked it. Because it had a Threat Level of F, it was advised for beginners to take care, but it was an easy win! Saying that it would be a hard fight, I guess other Adventurers are just cowards!」

Ah—. I get it.

He likely confused the reason for that difficulty rating. There's a difference between "difficult to defeat" and "difficult to defeat cleanly". The simplistic Mr. Mob and his buddies probably thought that so long as it was defeated they could cash in regardless of the corpse's state.

They made too lightly of the cheat Skill known as Dismantling! Skinning it neatly, and polishing every material is difficult! It's hard labor! Even Fran and I only managed to dismantle these materials through considerable hardships. We thought we would be hated if we brought them in without dismantling them first, after all.

「Is that so?
The Fur was completely worn out, and wouldn't be usable for decorations. If it was used for equipment, the product would no

doubt be lower grade.
The heads are usually processed and stuffed as trophies, but one was missing and the remaining one was badly damaged.
The nails were missing as well, giving it the minimum value.
Organs that could be used for medicine were wounded too badly to be usable, and the meat had already spoiled by the time it was brought in, so it couldn't even be used for food.
In other words, the Twin-Headed Bear you brought in was almost as good as *garbage*. You brought a *bulky piece of rubbish* in, so wouldn't it be impossible for us to make any money off of it?
Ahh, also, because it wasn't dismantled, I had to dismantle it myself didn't I? The dismantling rate for disposing of things like the rotten internal organs should have been taken into consideration when it was assessed. The total should have been 1,600 Gorudo, right? In retrospect, even that was too much.」

The man can't interrupt Nell as she continues to talk about his evaluation. Stunned, all he could do is listen to Nell talking like a machine gun in utter amazement.

I would too if he was directing those words at me. However, it seems that he still couldn't understand. No, he wasn't capable of understanding. He seems to be the type who refuses to back down.

「So noisy, stop nagging already![2] Talking about things that seem suitable in order to make a smokescreen, don't fuck with me! The amount you gave us was unfair, so cough the rest up right now!」
「*That's right! That's right!*」[3]

I was amused at first but... This is just pitiful. He's the type that believes that his reasons are absolute, and refuses to listen to others. He'll make noise until his opinion is accepted.

It's becoming more irritating by the second.

「It isn't unfair.」
「It *is* unfair! It was decided unfairly!」

「*Haa*... Instead of complaining, why not improve your ability to hunt? Unlike Mercenaries which just cut down their enemies, being an adventurer is difficult in a lot of ways. Although, judging by your appearance, it seems impossible for you to become a proper Adventurer.」
「*Haa?!* You talk so highly about Adventurers, but on the battlefield they'd be seen as nothing but cowards! If we took 'em on, they wouldn't stand a chance!」

We're likely not the only ones feeling offended by this guy. The eyes of the neighboring Adventurers seem to certify that suspicion. To make a fool out of Adventurers here...

Furthermore, he directed such words towards the beautiful[4] receptionist Nell, who is no doubt popular. Because he picked a fight with Nell as well as Adventurers in general, it's natural that the anger in the surrounding is building up.

These guys... Do they have some kind of death wish? Their status is inferior to the other Adventurers in the lobby.

Name : Damun[5] Age : 27
Race : Red Dog Beastman [6]
Job : Warrior
State : Enraged

Status:
Level : 15
HP : 78 MP : 40 STR : 37 END : 36 AGI : 33 INT : 20 MGC : 19 DEX : 1

Skills:
Transportation : Lv1, Sword Arts : Lv1, Theft : Lv2, Threatening : Lv1, Poi

Titles:
Failure of the Battlefield

Equipment:
Crude Iron Battleaxe, Crude Iron Breastplate, Torn Deer-Leather Armor,

He's a small fry. This is the status of the strongest of them. If it was me, I could beat him in less than 5 seconds.

While being troubled over what to do, the supposed leader of the group turns this way. I suppose he thought that arguing to Nell would be useless; that's what I can read from his foolish appearance, at least.

「Besides, how the hell could a brat like this bring in such a large amount of Demonic Beasts?!」
「What?」
「The exchange must have been fixed!」
「And so? What could that have to do with this? Suddenly claiming that this girl got the materials through illegal means has nothing to do with you, right?」
「..... It is! It *is* related! Because that money should have been ours to begin with, we have the right to take it back!」

Uwa—a. There's no longer any sense remaining in this guy's argument. What kind of thought process led him to that conclusion? Kichi○i[7] is over here—!

「She gathered those materials with her own hands. Her abilities are enough to kill a Twin-Headed Bear and beautifully dismantle it at minimum.」
「Hah! You really think so?! *Hey*, you're a member of the Black Cat tribe, right?」
「Nn.」
「The Black Cat tribe are particularly famous for their people being *complete weaklings*. For a member of that tribe to kill a Demonic Beast like that one is impossible! As expected, there's definitely something more to it!」
「*Yeah! Yeah!*」
「Damn brat. I'll overlook your crime this time if you pay some

consolation money. Take out the money you received a minute ago.」
「*Hehehe*... The Guild doesn't stick their neck into a fight between Adventurers, so you won't be intervening, right?」
「*Tch*……」

To their behavior, Nell becomes stiff. What they said was correct. The Guild doesn't interfere with the quarrels of the Adventurers. In other words... Whatever happens, the Adventurer's Guild will turn a blind eye. Even if that quarrel becomes a crime. That should be natural.

If these guys are really thinking that, then something must be wrong with their heads. It's not even at the level of a fool anymore. Could it be that inside of their heads, there's a Slime trapped inside?

「*Hey*, what's with that look?」
「……」

Fran looks up at the man. Her face is expressionless as always. But a clear anger is evident within her eyes.

「*Ah?* Does a weak member of the Black Cat tribe intend to go against someone from the Red Dog tribe?」
「*Yeah, yeah!* Damn cat, don't get carried away!」
「You put us Beastmen to shame! But hey, I just might forgive you if you hand over the money, you know?」

To call her the lowest of the low, is that what you intend to say? If Fran wasn't angrier than I was, I would have cut them down long ago.

Buti

The sound of one running out of patience. I surely heard such a thing.

Fran's goal is to raise the position of the Black Cat tribe, to succeed the will of her deceased parents. With these guys' abuse, she

probably can't endure any longer.

「Shut up.」
「What?」
「Your barking is noisy, *dog*[8].」

She said it! You said it, Fran! You did well! I'll treat you to something delicious later!

「You bastard! I'll kill you!」

I'm tired of hearing template-like lines already.

「Impossible, weakling.」
「*Ah?* Did you just call me a weakling?」
「Even though you're just a weakling of the Black Cat tribe!」
「Disappear in 5 seconds, or bark 1,000 times. I'll overlook you, *dog*.」
「*You–!* After I have my way with you, I'll sell you off to the Slave Traders! No more mercy!」[9]

Extortion, assaulting a little girl, and human trafficking. These guys are finished. If the police were around, they'd immediately be arrested. There're already some Adventurers walking out of the Guild.

Well, shall we put an end to this?

「Bad breath. Stop talking.」
「Fucking brat!」

He put his hands on his weapon! Yes, justifiable defense has been established!

「Die, brat!」

Out of the question. You can't even move anymore, after all.

「Ah? I-Iaa, **AHHHhhhhhhh!** My foot is–! ***Hiiaaaa!***」

The man's body, losing its support, falls to the side. Both of his legs have been severed from the knee.

Fran didn't pull me out, either. She had used the Lv6 Sword Technique: Aura・Blade. It's a technique which develops a blade made purely out of magic power, just for an instant. Its power is low, but it can be combined with Vibrating Fang, and depending on the user's MGC, it can become invisible. It could be seen as an ideal technique for assassination.

And she's already learnt how to use it! Fran, my frightening girl!

The man squirms about like a caterpillar in the pool of blood which continues to grow from his legs' wounds.

「*AH**ii**I*, ***Ahiiiiiii***」

Disgusting! Absolutely revolting.

「Y-you…… B-B-But, *Aahh?*」
「*!!…!…* ***I-It hur–!***」

Two more people fall to the ground due to Vibration Bullets fired by Fran breaking and tossing their legs aside. In addition, as a follow-up attack, more Vibration Bullets are fired at their faces. Their power is held back, but their noses are destroyed and their frontal teeth are completely lost. Their eyes might be done for as well.

The two remaining can't understand the situation. For the time being, they back away from Fran, so they likely understand that she's dangerous at this point at least. However, it's not like Fran's disdain has disappeared. *They should have run away*.

『Slow judgement is fatal.』

Cleanup would have been troublesome, but Fran would have been

fully capable of killing them if she intended to.

Fran kicks the floor, and in the next moment, she's right before one of them them. And with me, who's still covered in cloth, she strikes their face with all her might.

Gan! Gan!

More or less, it was equivalent to striking with the back of one's sword. No, because they were hit with the side of the sword, perhaps it would qualify as a side strike? [10] Well, regardless, their legs and faces now have comminuted fractures[11]. Most likely, low-leveled potions won't be able to heal them completely.

Turning around, the first technique from Pugilism: Aura・Kick is used against the last one remaining. With vibration applied, of course. He was abut to draw his weapon, but it was too late. His knee was broken, and the muscles inside were shredded. To finish with, he's struck in the face with a vibrating elbow strike.

End scene. Noise from the surrounding Adventurers has disappeared entirely, and only the screams for help from the other men resounded in the Guild.

「Hey?」
「Y-Yes!」
「May I go?」
「*Ah*..... Yeah. Thank you very much. We hope to see you again.」

Ohh, Nell has a good smile. How refreshing. Secretly, I make a mental thumbs up for "Good Job".

「Well, as for *you guys*, I'll hand you over to the soldiers.」
「*Ahh– Ahh*, you don't plan on catching that damn brat?! W-We were suddenly attacked, so–!」
「***Haa?*** What nonsense are you saying? Damn scum, all that child did was act in self-defense, isn't that right?」

「R-right. *That's right!* That's how it is!」
「It was completely self-defense!」

Hooray~ I can be at ease if Nell and the other Adventurers have to give testimony.

「It hurー! **It hurts!** Please, heal me!」
「*Ahh*, before that, I need to receive the bill for the floor you defiled. Blood is hard to remove, you know? You suffered a great loss, so I'll leave it at *10,000 Gorudo*. If you pay it, I might just heal you.」

You didn't say that you'd heal them for sure! Nell!

After listening to Nell's remarks, we leave the guild.

A considerable amount of time was taken up. The sun is already starting to set.

『Shall we look for an inn for the time being? Since we're in town, I'd hate to camp out.』
「Nn.」

---

[1] For those who don't know, "Template" is essentially equivalent to cliché — it's just that it's a bit slang-ish.

[2] It was Gocha Gocha Uruse in the flesh. Better strike that off the bingo card.
I may or may not have spent over an hour watching Vocaloid music and ending up at this when I linked that.

[3] This is from the follower-mobs, just so that's clear.

[4] "Beautiful Person (F)" (美人) is used here. Nell is confirmed to be a girl — and a beautiful one at that. Add another template to the list, m8's.

[5] ダムン. The first two characters could actually be "dumb". Well

played, Author.

[6] Changed Fran's Race to "Black Cat Beastman" because adding Beastman in is actually more accurate. The exact translation would be "Beastman・{Type} Tribe", but instead of adding in "Tribe" I'll just have it as a bit of invisible logic. For example: You can understand that Black Cat Beastmen in general are being talked about if I say "Black Cat Tribe", right?

[7] Unknown reference, I have literally no clue as to what it could be for/from. Based off the context, I suppose it's some sort of insane character? Or perhaps a nonsensical one? キチ〇イ

[8] 犬 is "Dog" — but it can also be the derogatory "loser/asshole" — essentially the same as calling them lower beings. Just know that as the conversation progresses.

[9] He uses 犯し which is, so we're clear, essentially "rape". When "assault" is used in the line above, it can also be rape.

[10] I think this was a joke, but translation killed it. It's essentially a reflection on how, as a "broadsword" type of sword, rather than a "back" he used his "abdomen" (side) to strike a non-lethal blow.

[11] The type of fracture one would get from car crashes. It's literally 粉砕骨折 — so "comminuted fracture" is the *only* translation.

※※※

Ensig:
You may have noticed, but I used *italics* a lot in this chapter. It's not because I'm in love with them or anything, it's just because the bandi– I mean Mob guys use "ー" a lot.

Just so you're aware, "ー" isn't a dash (-) — it's a sort of Japanese character used for elongating vowels. For example: Uwaaaaa = Uwaーa. Screams and such are excluded, but they can be used in compleーteley regular sentances, you knoーw? It just loーks awkward

if they're u—sed a lot. Ri—ght?

Thus, italics.

Anyways, time to sleep~

If there're any mistakes, make sure to comment 'em, 'cause it's 3:12 AM currently, and I have neither the desire nor consciousness remaining to edit 'em all out!

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 22: Nell's Side

Ensig:
Find the reason why this was "late" here. Unless you don't care, then just read on!

※※※

Author's Note:
100 bookmarks have been achieved.
Thank you!

My name is Nell. I work as a receptionist for the Adventurer's Guild in the town of Aressa.

Today, I was quite astonished.

I'll start at the beginning, when a young girl whose appearance wasn't clean by any means came to the reception desk at the Guild.

Unintentionally, I had asked a question.

「Ah, yes. Are you alone?」
「Alone.」
「Erm… This is the Adventurer's Guild, so…」
「I know.」

It seemed as though she really intended to become an Adventurer. She even seemed to carry a sword on her back……

If one thinks of making money, Adventurers are one of the things that naturally come to mind. And so, I thought that this girl was aiming to get rich, much like many others. But a lot of such people die. Especially for children, it can be said that most people who become Adventurers don't survive.

And so, I informed the Guild Master of the young girl. Sure enough, Donnadorondo was to take charge of the exam.

The Adventurer's Guild doesn't have any particular conditions for recruiting, as to attain a wider range of talented people. However, the Guild Master of Aressa secretly imposes a limit. That limit is to protect those younger than 15 years old by inhibiting their registration. Of course, it's not explicitly stated.

When a child comes to register, Donnadorondo is put in charge of the exam, thus forcing the participant to fail. At first, he'd give verbal threats as a show of force, and then makes them submit by force if they don't give up at that point.

Without exception, children could not win against Donnadorondo. So, it could be said that the chances of success for Donnadorondo's exam was "0%".

Even though it leaves a bad taste in the mouth, it's for the sake of the child. Children have usually no training to be qualified as an Adventurer, and so they're bound to die almost immediately. If one did survive, then they would be lucky just to scrape by financially. There's no way that they'd be able to make a lot of money, after all.

They aren't just sent away afterwards, however. When the child fails, I can enroll them in the Beginner Training conducted by the Guild without a participation fee. If they accept and complete the training, they can take the exam once again.

That day, however... There was an exception. I didn't watch over the test, so when I rushed to the training grounds in response to a large noise, finding the girl standing unhurt, and the figure of Donnadorondo sunk into the wall vomiting blood... I was surprised to say the least.

But the surprises happened one after another afterwards.

First would be the number of possible Jobs. Where there was usually only 2, maybe 3 to choose from, the girl had 15. Furthermore, they included intermediate Jobs like the Magic Swordsman, Flame Magician, and Blink Swordsman. At the time, I couldn't even let out my voice……

After making the Guild Card, the girl– Fran was her name — wanted to sell some materials. Because they didn't seem to be carrying anything, I had thought that they stored the materials in an Inn……

But instead, they took the materials out of nowhere.

Talking about storage, Item Box comes to mind, but that wasn't the case in that situation. The materials were taken out of the hole which appeared out of thin air. It was a Technique from a super rare attribute: the Spatial-Temporal attribute. I've worked at the Guild for a long time, and among the people I've seen capable of using Spatial-Temporal attributes this girl was the 3rd.

The next surprise was when the fur of a Twin-Headed Bear was taken out. Its threat level was only F, so it wasn't a very strong Demonic Beast — but I had never seen one in a state like that one.

The fur didn't have a single cut, and had absolutely no blood stains. The dismantling was perfect, and the two heads remained close to one another. Moreover, it was a large individual, so its fur weighed in at about 1.3 times the normal amount.

Aristocrats would want this material without a doubt. It could be made into a coat, or even a carpet… Otherwise, it could be used as a material for a piece of high-quality equipment.

The cleanly dismantled Poison Fang Rat pelts could also be used for a wide range of applications. Its materials can be used to make poison-resistant gear, so despite being a lower ranked Demonic Beast, its value is high.

To that 12-year-old girl who brought out perfectly dismantled materials, the surrounding Adventurers could only raise voices of surprise. Some looked back at their own dismantled furs and give a dry laugh.

But that wasn't all. What she did next stole their voices entirely, rendering the Guild quiet.

She took out materials from the Giant Bat, then the Crashing Boar, then the Rock Bison, the Stone Spider. the Burrowing Mole, and finally she stopped at the Paralysis Nailed Cat. F and E threat level Demonic Beasts came out one after another.

A Demonic Beast of threat level E is said to be capable of leveling a village. It's equivalent to an average Adventurer at rank D if it's one-on-one. In other words, those who hunt them would have to be people who have ascended the ranks of beginner adventurers, or a party of said "beginners".

And this girl hunted them alone? Moreover, she dismantled them perfectly? For dismantling of that caliber, a Dismantling Skill level 5 or 6 would be necessary at least… But having a Skill of such a high level at only 12 years old was abnormal.

By any chance… Did she have a form of blessing? But even with that, I thought that she was a little too strong…… The results of the mock battle with Donnadorondo weren't a lie, it seemed.

But what was the true identity of the Adventurer who asked that her personal information remained a secret? There're many people who have done the same, but…

I strongly endured it, and assessed the materials properly. It was the most materials brought in by any copper ranked[1] Adventurer recently. Naturally, it was a record high for the amount of materials brought in by a G rank.

If it had ended there, I would have finished while thinking「A Promising Rookie has arrived.」

Instead, a certain situation developed. It was one that I expected, but it happened earlier than I thought it would.

Who would have thought that fools would cause a fuss within the Guild's walls? Doing so would allow me to take away their Guild Cards. At worst, they could have even been turned into crime slaves.

Thinking back, they were a rookie party that caused trouble regularly. The leader was a Mercenary who crossed over and became an Adventurer because he didn't make enough to eat.

But seriously, a useless Mercenary has no place picking a fight with an Adventurer! Unlike Adventurers who require a great deal of talent, Mercenaries abilities only include battling and decreasing the size of their brains.

There's no end to these guys who convert to Adventurers thinking that it'll be easy simply because they have some war experience. Such people have high pride, and low ability. I wouldn't mind if they were more skillful, but…

Well, anyways. This group of idiots was of that category. They were primitive people who carried in a Demonic Beast that they hunted because they lacked the Dismantling Skill.

They also misunderstood the Guild's rule not to get involved in fights between fellow Adventurers. The rule means that we'll overlook mere squabbles. If we overlooked criminals, however, the Guild would be dissolved by the country. I'm really tired of idiots like them who can't understand that much.

And so, while the group of idiots continued to add groundless arguments to their foolish reasoning, Fran snapped. Because she was the expressionless type, I didn't recognize her at all.

Nevertheless, a quiet child becoming angry is amazing. I'll make sure to avoid angering Fran. I vowed so in my heart. At the end, I was called out to. Inevitably, it gave me a bit of a start.

The Adventurers who had spectated the event were also stunned. Without a doubt, they came to the understanding that she was stronger than them.

Even though she had stained the ground with the blood of fools, I didn't particularly mind. Rather, I thought that she did well.

Screaming to be healed, were they idiots? Ah, right, they were.

They likely carried other crimes, so the death penalty was almost certain. At minimum, they would become Mining Slaves. They had threatened with illegal trafficking and attempted extortion, after all. In this Kingdom, such things are categorized as capital offenses.

While watching Fran leave the Guild, I had a simple thought.

「Before they're delivered, could you extort the consolation money?」

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[1] Remember: Copper = G & F Rank. The Author wrote "Copper Rank" (銅ランク) explicitly, so Nell is talking about *both*. There're references to rank via the types of Adventurer Cards later on as well, which is why I'm mentioning this.

Chapter 23: Old man Gallus

『I didn't think we'd be refused.』
「Nn.」
『"Even if you have a Guild Card, we don't give shelter to children"?』

When we had arrived at an inn, that's what the proprietress had said……

Clearly, she was paying attention to Fran's appearance. Fran's wearing tattered clothing and sandals, so she must have thought that Fran was either poor or a runaway slave. She doesn't smell bad, however.

I can clean us using Purification Magic, so we're completely sanitary.

『I suppose we should fix your appearance by buying Equipment first, then.』
「？」

But I don't know where we can. Well, because I'll be choosing the equipment just leave it to me!

We head towards the town's plaza, located near the Adventurer's Guild. Around here, there're shops with Adventurers lining up in large numbers.

There're lots of shops and stalls, so there're enough Adventurers to match. There're smithies for Weapons and Armor, Tailors, Apothecaries, Accessory Makers, Taverns, Restaurants, etc. There's Really quite the variety.

This is also a good place to study the prices of things.

An Iron Knife is 2,000 Gorudo, a Grade 5 Life Potion is 10,000

Gorudo, a Grade 4 Antidote Potion is 20,000 Gorudo.

Grade 5 seems to be the lowest rank, but the price is quite reasonable. Even deep wounds seem to be cured in an instant, after all. If there was a medicine with the same effect in Japan its price would be far higher, which is why I think that the price is alright.

Such products are lined up next to one another, so I'm getting strangely excited.

『How interesting—』
「Un.」
『Oh! Fran thinks so as well?』
「Lots of rare things. Amazing.」
『I see, I see.』

Looking at Fran's eyes, they're shining bright. Her expressions don't change much, but it's good that Fran's also enjoying this.

Now then, where's the shop we're looking for? As a matter of fact, while we were browsing I had heard an encouraging bit of information.

That is, about a famous Blacksmith who was staying in Aressa. They seem to have rented a store to open their smithy, too.

I want that Blacksmith to make Fran some armor. It might be impossible given our current funds, but we may as well ask.

『Well, I wonder where it is.』

Looking around, there're many smithies and Armor shops, but none of them seem all that great. If it was a shop with an amazing Blacksmith, I figured there would be a large crowd, but I suppose not.

『Perhaps they've already closed for the day?』

It could be so if their goods were popular enough.

「You there, young lady. Like what you see?」
「Un?」
「Yes, yes, you my lady.」

Good heavens, did someone make a pass?! I put my guard up, but the voice belonged to an old Dwarf. It's possible that he's just an Erojiji[1] using the disguise of a wrinkly old hermit, however, so it's not safe yet.

If he plans to do anything strange, I'll pretend to fall and pierce his foot to scare him off.

「You seem to be looking for some armor, so how is it?」
「How did you know?」
「Well, I could understand with a look at you.」
「……」
「Ahh, so cautious. Wha—t, it's pretty simple. Looking at your footwork, I can see that you're quite skilled. And yet… Your armor is quite poor. You'd turned your eyes to many Armor Shops and Blacksmiths, so wouldn't the only conclusion be that you're looking for some armor?」

This guy's not just your run-of-the-mille old man! Just who on earth is he?

Name : Gallus　Age : 82
Race : Dwarf
Job : Magic Blacksmith
State : Normal

Status:
Level : 33
HP : 260　MP : 273　STR : 152　END : 100　AGI : 56　INT : 120　MGC : 148

Skills:

Dismantling : Lv2, Fire Resistance : Lv7, Blacksmithing : LvMax, Smithin

Extra Skills:
God's Eye

Titles:
Wandering Master Smith, Honorary Blacksmith of the Kuranzeru[3] King

Equipment:
Magic Steel Blacksmithing Hammer, Leather Clothes of the Fire Lizard, S

This old man was the great Blacksmith from the rumors, it seems. I suppose that would also explain his keen observation from a moment ago?

Well, it's convenient at least. He ended up finding us, so I'll consider myself lucky.

「Amazing.」
「*Wahahahaha!* Even though I look this old, I've still got a long way to go! So, why don't you take a look at my shop?」
「Mhm.」
「Well then, this way.」

Guided by Gallus, we're led to a store at the corner of the plaza. In the meantime, the gazes of innumerable people are turning their eyes to us in the surrounding area. Their stares stick, so it's pretty uncomfortable.

『Eh? Isn't everyone around looking here?』
「Enemies?」
『No, they're not but……』

The gazes from merchant-like men are particularly terrifying. Fran, who misunderstands those stares as intimidating glares from enemies returns sharp glances around the area.

What on earth is going on?

「Ahh, don't worry about it; it's just pressure from greedy Armor merchants. I've driven them away in the past, but since then they've started persistently approaching people who've purchased items from my shop in order to sell them second-hand.」

No, no, isn't that troubling in itself?

「*We—ll*, we'll be going around back to get in, so be at ease. More importantly, what're you looking for exactly?」

There's no way I can feel relieved with just that… But there's no helping it even if I worry about it. Rather than that, it was good luck to find a skilled Blacksmith, so we should take this chance no matter what.

「Why to me?」
「I only sell to Adventurers who'll actually use my wares. You, my dear, are one such person.」

What a stubborn craftsman. I don't hate that, though.

『First, have him show you a sword.』
「First, a Sword.」
「*Haa?* Aren't you already carrying a fine sword? This is the first time I've seen an Intelligent Weapon, you know?」

W-What?! How did he know? Appraisal? No, I have Appraisal Concealment. It's impossible for it to have been exposed!

「…… Intelligent Weapon?」

Good performance, Fran! Keep up that deceit!

「Ahh, well… It doesn't make a difference—. I was just making sure. My eye is a little special you see, so even if you have Appraisal blocking Skills, I can still see a bit of information. Especially in

regards to Equipment.」

There was such an ability?! Now that he mentions it, on top of having Appraisal and Discernment, he also had the God's Eye Skill, didn't he…? Is that its effect?

「Well, only an Intelligent Weapon would have its Attack Power and Magic Power Conductivity. Is that enough of an explanation, Sword?」
『Well, I can understand in that case. This girl… I want Fran to be able to use a proper sword.』
「*Oohh?* You really can talk? You really are intelligent! *Incredible—incredible—!*」
『You look like a kid…』
「Teacher also, sometimes.」
『*Eh*, seriously?』
「Really.」
『*A—hh*, well. I suppose in the face of something interesting, anyone would revert to the mind of a child.』
「Nn.」

I look over to old man Gallus who's still frolicking around.

『… I'm the same as that?』

I'll try to be a bit more prudent in the future.

「Oops, sorry—. I was just a bit excited. Anyways, looking at your performance, a different sword doesn't seem like it'd be necessary.」
『No, no. Did you look at it right? Old man, your swords are stronger. Like that sword over there.』

The High-Quality Steel Longsword that I had seen in town earlier was made by this old man, no doubt about it. And in this shop similar weapons are all over the place. All of them were at least as strong as me, if not more.

Watching such weapons, I hold back feelings that seem like they'd make me cough up blood. How would a blunt weapon like me compare to them?

「Well, only in terms of simple attack power. *Ahh*, I see. By any chance, do you know of Magic Power Conductivity?」
『Magic Power Conductivity? I know of it, but…』
「But do you know what it is, hm—? It's pretty importa—nt.」
『How is it important?』
「It's really important, you kno—w! It's especially important when evaluating a sword!」

How! Enlighten me, already!

「It's quite the wonder—.」
『Explain in detail, please.』
「Mmh. Magic Power Conductivity refers to the efficiency in which a piece of equipment can be clad in Magic Power. When it's made use of, the weapon's performance varies greatly.」
『Hmmm.』
「For example, this weapon:」

Gallus picks up a Dagger which was hung on the wall. Appraising it, I find that it's made of Steel. Its Magic Power Conductivity is E.

「Its Magic Power Conductivity is E, which means the conduction efficiency is around 5%. And so, using 100 Magic Power, its attack power rises by 5.」

Gallus explains further by taking out a Dagger made out of Mithril. Its Magic Conductivity is C-, with a conduction efficiency of about 70%. In other words, pouring 100 MP into it results in an ATK increase of 70. With this, conductivity is definitely important. It allows the difference in performance to be overturned easily.

「Furthermore, efficiency isn't the only thing that increases with conductivity ratings. The amount of time magic can be contained

within the weapon also increases. In other words, effects imbued upon the weapon last longer.」
『So, is Mithril's conductivity of C- quite high?』
「That's right. Mithril is particularly superior when it comes to conduction efficiency. It's no exaggeration to say that weapons exceeding C- exist on the market as well, but by giving priority to increased conductivity, their basic attack power is low. In most cases, at least.」
「Then, A is amazing.」
「Mmh. Swords with a conductivity of A are pure Magic Swords; they have a conduction efficiency of 200%. Frankly, regular weapons pale in comparison.」

200%... So if 100 magic power is put in, ATK raises by 200? That's absurdly strong, isn't it?! I suppose that means my time has come?

『Is there a limit to the amount of magic power put into the weapon?』
「That depends on the materials. As for your material..... I don't understand it very well. Halmolium[4] seems to be the base, but there seem to be a mix of magic metals as well.....」

Fran hands me over to Gallus, and he taps me with a hammer with a **concon** as if to be certain.

「You don't seem to be inferior to Orichalcum, so about 1,000 magic power wouldn't a be a problem I think. Well... Normally most people wouldn't possess such an enormous amount of magic power in the first place — even the Court Magician in the Royal Capital can barely reach 800 MP, after all!」

Disregarding Gallus who's laughing with a **Gahahaha!**, I internally break out into a cold sweat. For me... I can supply 1,000. In other words, I can increase my ATK by 2,000...? I had always found it a little strange up until this point. I could defeat seemingly-difficult opponents in one shot. Aiming at their vitals combined with acceleration via Telekinesis probably contributed as well, but..... I

had probably wrapped myself in Magic Power unconsciously.

「Lasts how long?」
「Well, that depends on the material. For E, it's 5 minutes. Each successive rank increases that by about 2 minutes.」
『Then, for A……』
「It'd be 29-30 minutes.」
「Long.」
『That's more than enough for a short-term battle.』
「Nn.」
『Then I'm not a dull sword?』
「If you're dull, then most of this world's swords are dull as well.」
『I see, so that's how it is…… *Uo—h!* I'm glad—!』

I'm really, really glad! If I had eyes, tears would be pouring out from my happiness. I've become a sword in both body and mind. Finding out I was stronger than other swords, I didn't think I'd become this pleased. Well… It isn't an unpleasant feeling.

「You're at the pinnacle of strength for a Magic Sword. You might even reach the feet of Divine Swords.」
「Divine Sword?」 [5]
「Ou. Were you made by a Divine-class Blacksmith?」
『Well… I don't know. I have no memories of my creator.』
「Is that so……」
『Do you know something about it? If you do, please tell me.』

It feels quite bad not knowing my roots. And so, I want to know one way or another.

「You see, Blacksmiths have a ranking system.
There's the regular Blacksmith, Advanced Blacksmith, Magic Blacksmith, and finally Divine Blacksmith. There're other Jobs derived from those as well, but the Job that reigns above them all is the Divine Blacksmith without a doubt. There've been no more than 5 people who have reached that level in the past. Truly, Blacksmiths of legend.」

「5 Legendary people. Cool.」
「For Blacksmiths like myself, they're existences to admire. Divine Swords can only be forged by Blacksmiths of the Divine class.」
『And you think a Divine Blacksmith made me?』
「I think so, but I can't be sure…… You're quite weak compared to other Divine Swords, but you're too strong to be a regular Magic Sword. You're right in the middle.」
『What's with that… Then it could have just been a skilled Magic Blacksmith who made me?』
「Well, that's also a possibility.」
『How much stronger are Divine Swords?』

I asked so purely out of curiosity. "How much stronger could such a sword be stronger than myself?" It was with such a thought.

「Divine Swords are said to be transcendent weapons that divide the sky and rend the land. In fact, there are records depicting such a sword taking the lives of over 10,000 people in only a matter of hours in a war of the past.」
『Are they all swords?』
「So long as it's a weapon forged by a Divine Blacksmith, it's referred to as a Divine Sword. It seems that there have been ones that don't take the shape of swords, though.」
「Seems?」
「I've seen one such weapon. The Flame Sword: Ignis.」
『I see. How much stronger was Ignis?』
「When I had seen it my Appraisal Skill was low, so I couldn't see it all, but…」

Name: Flame Sword・Ignis
ATK: 1800

Magical Power Conductivity・SS

Skills:
Flame Magic Bestowal, God Flame Bestowal, Unknown

「That's about it.」
『Ahh, so it's like that. I'm sorry for holding any form of rivalry in my heart... There's no way that I could match up to a Divine Sword.』
「Don't be like that... As a sword, aren't you plenty strong enough?」
『Consoling an inferior sword? What a nice old man you are...!』
「You're a good sword. I'm happy to have met such an interesting weapon!」
『*Old man Gallus!*』
「*Sword!*」

Disregarding us, Fran who lost interest in us started browsing the rest of the shop.

「Nn. This Breastplate is good.」

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[1] Like Erofu — just with "old man". In other words, a perverted old man.

[2] Regarding some of the Skill names:

- Dedication (不眠不休) is actually "Without sleep or rest".
- Smithing Magic (or more accurately Blacksmithing Magic — 鍛冶魔術) and Magic Blacksmithing (魔法鍛冶) are extremely similar, but are different things. I'm not sure what Smithing Magic would look like, but... Well, there it is.
- Discernment (目利き) is not Appraisal (鑑定).

[3] クランゼル = Kuranzeru, unless someone has a better suggestion

[4] ハルモリウム = Halmolium — it seems to be an ingot-type from the Atelier series that's composed entirely out of pure Orichalcum.

[5] Fran actually says "Magic Sword? Divine Sword?" probably as a "What's the difference" question, but in English just asking for what one article is would be enough to understand the difference.「魔剣？　神剣？」

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 24: Equipment Acquisition

「*Gahahaha!* Sorry for leaving you alone, miss!」
「Un.」
『I'm enough in terms of weaponry. I'd like you to make me a sheath instead, is that fine?』
「*Ou!* I'll make the best sheath you've ever seen!」
『We can't pay you too much, though…… We want other equipment as well, after all.』
「Is that so~? How much is your budget?」
『Leaving some for lodging and medicine, about 150,000 Gorudo.』

We'll be buying cheap protective gear, but Gallus is a renowned Magic Blacksmith. 150,000 might be a bit low.

「Really. Alright, because I like you guys, I'll sell you one set of equipment and a sheath for that much.」
『Is that really alright? I'm saved.』
「This much is fine! Then, what kind of armor would you like? I may be a Blacksmith, but I can also work with leather. I don't mind whatever you choose.」
『Hmm. Well, what do you think?』
「Lighter is good.」
「Leather then. My recommendation is to use steel to strengthen the areas that cover your vitals.」
「I see.」
「What about headgear?」
「Better with none. Bad visibility.」
「Then, perhaps an earring for Beastmen? There're types that don't need a piercing, if you'd like.」
「Nn.」
「Just a moment, then.」

Old man Gallus takes multiple pieces of equipment out from a storehouse of some sort. There're various kinds.

「Try out whichever one catches your eye.」

Name : Remodeled Breastplate of the Flame Bull

DEF : 88　Durability : 330/330

Effect : Fire Resistance ↑ Low

Name : Remodeled Gauntlet of the Paralysis Clawed Cat

DEF : 39　Durability : 160/160

Effect : Impact Resistance ↑ Low, Paralysis Resistance ↑ Low

Name : Boots of the Poison Wyrm[1]

DEF : 52　Durability : 200/200

Effect : Poison Resistance ↑ Low

Name : Mithril Earring of the Cat Tribe

DEF : 10　Durability : 100/100

Effect : Magic Resistance ↑ Low

As a set, the DEF adds up to 189.

It's weaker than the Guild Master's equipment, but compared to most Adventurers around town it's a bit strong. It's better equipment than I had expected to receive.

The main color of the equipment is black, which suits Fran better than I had anticipated. In addition, two pieces of clothing without any defensive properties were also tailored for her.

『Is it alright giving us such strong equipment?』

「It's fine. Strong Adventurers should be equipped with strong equipment. Above all, this equipment is inferior compared to yourself, so it's quite vexing. Well, anyways, I won't go into the red or anything, so don't worry about it.」
『Well, Fran?』
「Thank you.」
「Come again in the future. It's not every day I get an opportunity to analyze an Intelligent Weapon, after all.」
『Isn't that reason a bit strange?』
「Don't mind it. It's for Appraisal and Discernment.」
『Well, if that's how it is…』
「Bringing in materials is also welcome, you know? If you bring them in, I'll lower the price of the equipment made out of it.」

At his words I remembered the strong Demonic Beasts' materials I had stored. Since I won't be selling them to the Guild, wouldn't passing them to old man Gallus for the sake of better equipment be as inconspicous as it gets?

「Materials.」
『That's right. I'd like you to make some protective gear out of them to dispose of them without attracting attention, old man.』
「*Hou*. Putting it like that, their quality must be quite substantial.」
『They're not from small-fry Demonic Beasts. They're from beings with threat levels of D and C.』

It wouldn't be strange for an entire Country to take action for Demonic Beasts of Threat Level C. If one such creature appears near a town, the armed forces appearing soon after would be expected.

Even for Adventurers, they're dangerous to the degree that you'd need at least 3 parties — more than 15 people — of Silver ranks.

『Are there any vacant rooms we can use?』
「Yeah, there's an empty room over there. Did you bring them with you?」
「We did.」

「You have an item bag, then? But where……」

No item bags can be seen from the figure of Fran. She only has clothes, sandals, and me equipped currently.

『It's an ability of mine.』
「I see. Interesting… For a Sword to have an item box ability…… I had no idea…」

While the old man murmurs and mumbles to himself, I was moved to the vacant room. It was likely a warehouse of some sort originally. It has a dirt floor, a high ceiling, and a sizeable area. I have no complaints.

『Then, I'll take them out.』

I take out the fur, fangs, and claws of the Tyrant Saber. Next are the poisonous fangs and scales of the Doppel Snake, and followng that is the shell and skin of the Blast Tortoise. With just that, the room was filled with materials.

For the materials of the large Slime Lord, I left them stored and simply conveyed their existence verbally. The whole room would be covered with its slimy liquid if I took it out, after all.

「What the……?! D-Did you kill these? Despite them being materials of high-level C and D ranks?」
『Well…』
「Alone?」
『To be precise, it was just me. I had used Telekinesis to soar around at that time.』
「*Hahahahahaha!* How fierce! You must have quite the variety in abilities.」
『If one's basic abilities are low, versatility is key.』
「If it's this, then… Equipment of considerable quality can be made. It'll be gear at a level that would be out of reach to a bronze rank.」

That should be expected, it's material of only strong Demonic Beasts after all.

「However, these are all leather materials. *I can't handle it all alone. I'll have to cooperate with someone. After* ***that****, that guy'll —*」
『Um, old man?』
「Oops, excuse me. Because there's such interesting work after a long time, I've grown a tad excited. I wonder how many times you'll surprise me before you're satisfied!」

While saying so, a big smile floats on his face.

「Then, will you?」
「Of course!」
『However, it'll be a custom-made set provided by a skilled artisan. How much would be sufficient old man?』
「That's right…… Even with materials provided, the price usually wouldn't dip below 2,000,000 Gorudo.」
『Seriously? That's absolutely impossible.』
「This material… Is it fine if I take it all?」
『Aah, yeah that's fine.』
「Then, the negotiations'll be simple. There're far too many materials for the equipment of the young lady alone, so I'll buy the surplus materials. For the price, how about we settle with a complete offset of the crafting cost?」
『That'd be a great help.』
「Alright, deal.」
「How long?」
「It'll take one month.」
『It'll take longer than expected,』
「What are you saying? That time is *already* pushing it! Well, that's just because of the material, of course. It's an odd job, for sure, but thankfully there're enough raw materials to work with, so it'll work out one way or another.」
『It can't be helped. What do you think, Fran?』
「Nn. Looking forward.」
「*Ou!* Leave it to me!」

Old man Gallus then proceeds to prepare several iron barrels to load the body of the Slime Lord into. The slime seems to have multiple uses.

「I've looked already, but… Are there no Magic Stones in these?」
「None.」
「Really. That's too bad.」
『Can Magic Stones be used in equipment as well?』
「*Ou*. During creation, I can mix them in. For example, using the fang of this Doppel Snake assures a Poison Resistance effect for armor; for weapons, toxic effects would be expected. However, those effects could increase with the addition of the Doppel Snake's Magic Stone. Using other stones would also apply an effect, but the materials have a natural affinity with the Magic Stone of the same kind.」

To think that Magic Stones had such a use… Unfortunately, their Magic Stones have already been absorbed by me. Perhaps I should leave Magic Stones that have Skills I have already in the future. They can be absorbed from storage at any time if they turn out useless.

『I'll be careful in the future.』
「*Ou*, that's good then.」
『Then I suppose we'll take our leave for today.』
「Bye bye.」
『I'm sorry for troubling you in various ways.』
「Hahaha! Just look forward to the finished products! Make sure to come back for the sheath in 3 days, too.」
『Understood.』

Because we had processed the materials, strong armors could be ordered. Really, it was quite a good encounter.

『You look good, Fran. You match the look of a fledgling Adventurer to a tee.』
「Thank you.」

『Next is…… Do you need underwear?』
「？Not really.」
『I-Is that so?』

Because she said so, it's alright, right?

No, that won't do. Certainly the hurdle is high when it comes to lingerie and undergarments, but if I back away now, I'll end up running away forever! If I do so, Fran will lose quality as a lady!

Here and now, I must take the offensive!

『That's no good. We're going to buy some underwear!』

---

[1] "Wyrm" should actually be "Sub/Inferior Flying Dragon", but "Boots of the Poison Sub-Dragon" sounds kinda… Well… Weird. Especially because the Wyvern way back when was a sub-dragon of sorts, making the identity of the boots' materials quite vague compared to other gear. If you have a better recommendation, lay it on me. 劣飛竜.

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 25: *Dokidoki* — I'm a guy, after all

It's been 10 minutes since we left old man Gallus' shop.

『Here it is.』
「Frilly.」

As Fran said, looking through the store window a lot of frilly women's clothing are displayed.

『Because it's a shop specializing in women's clothing.』
「Buying what?」
『What do you mean, what?』
「？」
『Well, it's fine. Let's enter.』

My heart isn't pounding just a little, currently. Well, I don't have a heart to begin with but… Any man would react like this. In addition, this is the first time I've entered such a shop — I hadn't done so even in my past life.

「Welcome!」
「Nn.」
「An? An Adventurer?」

Coming out from the back of the shop is a vulgar delinquent-like young woman. She has deep blue short-cut hair, and is wearing impressive cyberpunk-looking clothing, exceeding my expectations of a fantasy.

「And? What do you want? We've got underwear, lingerie, casual clothing, formal attire, pretty much everything. What're you looking for?」
（What are we getting?）
『Just say as I say.』
（Understood.）

We'll give the general idea, and then push rest onto the saleswoman.

「Underwear for 5 days. Easily washable: good.」
「Uh-huh.」
「Also, clothing and underclothes for under armor.」
「5 days worth of those as well?」
「Nn.」
「For underwear, I'll assume the lowest size would fit. Got any preferences?」
「Appropriate.」
「That's no good for a cute girl like you!」

This lady was once an Adventurer. She had conceded on getting sturdy underwear for the sake of adventuring, but she was dissatisfied with there being few cute ones to choose from, so she took action. Uniting with the storekeeper of this store, she had developed various articles for female Adventurers.

「For a fair-skinned, black-haired, black eared beauty like yourself, this one might be good.」

What? Black panties!? Moreover, one with a fascinating tail hole? Outrageous. Truly, outrageous!

「This series has a hole in it specifically for Beastmen. How is it?」

Well… Isn't it a bit too mature for Fran? It's still a bit too early. Cuter ones would be more suitable. While thinking such, the young lady introduces other goods.

「Or perhaps something like this?」

— T-Those are striped panties, no doubt about it. Moreover, they're ones with stripes of light blue and white!

「These, too.」

Kuh — S-Stop! Don't make me look at the modest-shaped cream

colored underwear decorated with small ruffles and bows…!

More enchanting types of underwear are unleashed in sequence, all of which are strong yet elastic.

「We also offer a service to open tail holes in articles which don't already have them, you know?」
「Then, these.」
「Ok, Ok. Anything else?」

Is there anything else needed? Girl stuff…… Cleansing foam? No, I suppose a face-washing tool?

「Facial-wash tools? If you have them.」
「We do. The ones at the side suppress dirt really well.」
「Then, please.」
「Got it.」

Apparently, there don't seem to be any bras. Perhaps this country's civilization isn't advanced to the point where they exist yet?

Fran is small — perhaps similar to a cliff. Well, because she has that tsurupeta[1] attribute bras aren't necessary for the time being.

「So: 5 days worth of underwear and underclothes, along with shirts and short pants made with materials permitting good airflow. Would you like any of those with longer lengths?」
「Yeah. Two long ones.」
「Alright. After that is facial soap and towels.」

There's soap? Is it the same as the soap on Earth?

「I made the soap exclusively for the face with Alchemy. It'll cleanse the skin and make it smooth; it's also odorless for the sake of female Adventurers, you know?」

Really? That's pretty good. You'd be discovered by a Demonic Beast in no time if you smelled of flowers while on the hunt, so it's quite

helpful if it's odorless.

「Thank you for your patronage!」

I'll have to teach Fran how to wash her clothes later. If I do a bad job, she might not have any spare clothing left over… I should do it? No way, that's dangerous in various ways. She'll have to do it for herself. I'd feel like dying if Fran saw my work and judged it as garbage, after all.

◇◆◇

30 minutes after everything was sorted out, we're standing in front of an inn. The lady from the clothing store had recommended it when we asked. A lot of female Adventurers use it, it seems.

Its appearance is neat, so it doesn't seem to be that bad.

Upon entering… Its interior is also clean, and there're even flowerpots placed around. I use Telekinesis to scrub a small corner of the entrance, but there's no dust. Mmh, it's a good inn.

「Teacher: worrywart[2].」
『Wha–!』

I'm only like this for your sake! Fran!

「Welcome.」

At the counter is a young lady. She seems to be a bit over 20 years old.

「Rooms available?」
「Would it be a room for one?」
「Nn, alone.」
「Are there any people to serve as your guardians?」

As expected, is it no use for a child to go in all alone?

『Fran, take out your Guild Card.』
「Nn. This.」
「Eh? Is this real?」
「Nn.」

The woman stares at the Guild Card for a little while, and finally comes to the understanding that it's the genuine article.

「Well, with this your identity has been cleared. It's 300 Gorudo for a room without meals. 400 Gorudo will cover the room and two meals. Each room within the inn is private. So, what would you like?」
『A stay for one day, meals provided.』
「One night with meals.」
「Understood. Here's the key to your room, please be careful with any valuables in your possession.」
「Nn.」

After that, she went through an explanation about the prices of commodities and such, like how Lanterns and hot water are provided through the use of Magic Tools. I was surprised when she mentioned toothbrushes, but it seems that they simply make use of Purification Magic somehow.

「You can exchange this tag at the dining room for a meal. The dining room is always open, so it can be exchanged at any time.」

While saying so, she passed us two exchange tags. They must have a good system in place to allow their guests to dine at any time.

Well, because I have a plentiful supply Demonic Beast meat, I could probably go without the meals anyways. From now on, perhaps it would be best to simply prepare our own meals instead… Any number of dishes can be placed in Dimensional Storage, so hot foods could be eaten at any time.

The only problem would be where to make the food. Roasted meals

and soup would become boorish after a while, so order to prepare for various meals proper kitchen utensils will be required.

「Here?」
『This room isn't that bad.』

There's a bed, a desk, and a chest set to the side; the room is completely spotless. Furthermore, dancing clothes are provided, likely in order to spend time comfortably. Finally, there's a spot on the wall in order to hang one's armor. This inn has a service to be reckoned with.

「Teacher, alright here?」
『？』
「Such a great room?」

Ahh, so that's it. Fran has lives as a slave for more than four years, so this room of this level would probably seem incredibly luxurious.

This poor child! I will absolutely make her happy! But first, I should relieve her!

『This is our room.』
「Very luxurious…」
『No, it's not that amazing. This is common.』
「Really?」
『Really. From now on, you can stay in rooms like this without reserve.』
「Uo—!」

Fran pushes both fists to the sky in a manly way and lets out a roar.

「It was good to follow Teacher.」
『Is that so?』
「Already: winners at life.」
『It's to that extent?!』
「It's my time.」

She's already happy at an unreasonable level, and her spirits have risen. It's hard to see from her facial expressions…

But it's good so long as she likes it.

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[1] "tsurupeta" (ツルペタ) is essentially Flat-chested. Otaku lingo is hard to translate.

[2] Fran calls Sword-shisho "sister-in-law" (小姑) or, separated: "little mother in-law". It probably has a meaning in Japanese that isn't present in English, so I changed it to this. It should be about equivalent… Probably.

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 26: Sa—ber Tige—r

Author's Note:
My cold hasn't been cured just yet, so it's a little short.

We relaxed a bit at the inn, but we're not finished with shopping just yet.

『Hey, let's go shopping before sunset, alright?』
「Buying?」
『Seasoning and cooking utensils. It'd be nice to eat delicious things when we're camping out, right?』
「Nn.」
『Then we'll need seasoning.』
「Important. Top priority.」
『Then let's head out to a general store. If we ask someone from the inn, they'll likely be able to tell us about one.』
「Understood.」
『Just in case, remember to lock up. We haven't left anything, but…』
「Nn.」

We were recommended to a shop by one of the ladies at the inn. Its location was apparently just across the street.

『Here it is.』

The sign out front reads「General Shop Sa—ber Tige—r 」.

「Sa—be—r?」
『It doesn't look like a general store at all.』
「No choice but here.」

As Fran said, this is the only general shop nearby. A bit reluctantly, we enter.

curran curran [1]

「Welcome—!」

It'd be a fairly normal looking general store on the inside... If there wasn't a macho man as the owner. He had only said「Welcome—」, but a transcendent throaty sound reverberated throughout the store. Without the consonant mark, his speech would have been a whole other level of manly.

「General store?」
「That's right. Although it's often misunderstood, this is indeed a general store.」

Of course it would be misunderstood. It's called Sa—ber Tige—r. Furthermore, a macho man who wouldn't look out of place prowling a dungeon is the clerk. You can understand just through his movement that his appearance isn't just for show, either. Shall I Appraise him?

Name : Rufus Age : 41
Race : Human
Job : Merchant
State : Normal

Status:
Level : 30
HP : 238 MP : 153 STR : 120 END : 107 AGI : 77 INT : 74 MGC : 69

Skills:
Transportation : Lv3, Dismantling : Lv4, Harvesting : Lv2, Arithmetic : L

Titles:
Giant Slayer

Equipment:
Merchant's Apron, Arithmetic Earrings

That's *not* the status of a Merchant. That's the status of an intermediate Adventurer — one with the Skills and constitution of a Vanguard, too! His Arithmetic and Commerce Skills are the ones that seem out of place instead!

「Adventurer?」
「Originally, yeah. I had always dreamed of opening up a store of my own, so I worked to accumulate the funds needed. I retired from the life of an Adventurer 3 years ago and finally fulfilled my dream.」
「Why the name? Not cute.」

Ms. Fran, please be a bit less direct!

「*Haha*, that's asked often. I wonder why… To tell you the truth, when I was opening my shop I wanted something to attract attention. In the end, I decided to display that.」

The shopkeeper points the the wall at the back of the store, where a stuffed Saber head is displayed. It has a forceful expression that makes it seem like it could roar at any moment.

「Cool.」
「*Right?* It's a bit unpopular around women, though. Even though it's so cool.」

Is this store really alright? If it wasn't referred to by the lady at the inn, I'd run away as quickly as possible.

However, while Fran was making conversation I had looked around the store. The selection is actually quite good. Not just seasonings, convenient goods are all over the place.

「Ah, but I'm getting in the way of your shopping. Please, take your time.」
『Well, let's get what we came for then.』
「Nn.」

Naturally we're buying salt and an assortment of herbs, but I'd also

like expensive things like sugar and spices. We'll also be buying dishes and utensils afterward.

But isn't the security around here a bit careless? This world is different from Japan; it's a dangerous place. Undoubtedly robberies happen. And yet, this shop exhibits its products just like Japan, making use of a system that allows the customer to choose their products directly. Couldn't shoplifters act as much as they'd like……? No, maybe not. The owner's a former Adventurer, so he wouldn't overlook amateur shoplifting. It's likely that he's able to use this style of showing his products because he's confident in his abilities.

In the end, we purchased about 3,000 Gorudos worth of items and left the shop. It seems that we were thought of as good customers. In addition to being told to come again, the shopkeeper passionately saw us off personally.

『As for our remaining funds… There's a little over 40,000 Gorudo, huh.』
「What next?」
『I'd like to buy Potions, but……』

We won't be able to buy any expensive Potions.

「Recovery Magic.」
『At its level it's only the degree of soothing.』
「Raise level?」
『I considered that.』

I have 18 Self-Evolution Points remaining. 2 Points are necessary to raise the Skill's level, so I could increase its level 9 times. In other words, I have enough Points to get a Skill from Lv1 to the Max.

『There are still some Skills that I'd like to raise.』
「Which ones?」

Sword Techniques for example. After the examination at the Adventurer's Guild, the Guild Master had called Dragon・Fang a medium-grade Sword Technique. A Sword Technique of Lv7 is medium-grade. And so, just like Magic Skills, if I get Sword Techniques to LvMax something'll happen, right? That's what I think, anyways.

「Un. I think, too.」
『Right?』

Also, because the power of Sword Techniques depends on the level of Sword Arts, in order to make full use of them Sword Arts needs to have its level raised as well.

After that would be Fission Creation. It's pretty useless right now, but if I raise its level... Wouldn't it be possible to use it in combat just like the Doppel Snake did? It would also save a lot of trouble if I could use a doppel body as Fran's guardian when she goes out shopping.

「Good.」
『Right?』

After that would be Skills for the sake of life preservation, like Instant Recovery, Abnormal Status Resistance, and Physical Attack Resistance. They're simple, but they'll be overwhelmingly reliable in a predicament. Moreover, those three Skills seem to have severe acquisition conditions: the so-called Top Skills.

Fran's still a low level, so taking a single attack from an a Demonic Beast above intermediate rank would be the end. It can't hurt to be too careful until she becomes a high level.

「Forgot.」
『I'll be keeping Instant Recovery active, so it shouldn't be too bad for the time being.』

And then there's Recovery Magic. Instant Recovery is a good skill, but it'd be great to be able to heal other people.

I want to raise its level intensively, rather than leave it incomplete.

『Well, any Skills are good enough.』

In the end, after more consultation at the inn, I ended up raising Recovery Magic to the counter stop. It now allows Abnormal State recovery, so it's convenient. Even if Fran sustains a major injury it can be healed, too.

Furthermore, Healing Magic Lv1 was obtained. Just like how Flame Magic was obtained from Fire Magic, it was obtained after Recovery Magic reached its peak.

『With this, our means of recovery are secured.』
「Nn.」
『Now then, what shall we do tomorrow? Perhaps we should take a request from the Adventurer's Guild? There's still money left over, so we could relax for several days if you'd like.』
「Take request.」
『Is that alright? We'll probably end up going out of the town.』
「Ready.」
『Then, let's go to the Guild tomorrow.』
「Un. Looking forward to Adventurer work.」
『*Ou*. We'll have to take some time to raise your level, too.』
「After that?」
『What would you like to do? We can do anything you'd like.』
「Anything……」
『*Ou*. Is there anything you'd like to do?』
「Un……?」
『*Hahahaha!* You should think long and hard about it. We have plenty of time.』
「Un. I will.」

[1] Shop-entrance bell-noise thing. Yep.　カランカラン

Chapter 27: These Guys Again

This is the first morning that I've woken up at an inn.

Murmuring『I don't know this ceiling…』was simply a matter of course. Well, I didn't lie down because I don't sleep, but…

I move Fran who seems like she's weak to mornings, and proceed to change her clothes. I clean her with Purification Magic and wash her face using water — also created by magic. Fran's hair is shortcut with curls swaying often move at the ends, so I don't forget to fix her terrifically disheveled morning hair with water as well.

After I've finished, Fran finally awakes.

「Good morning.」
『Did you sleep well?』
「Very.」

Next, we head out to the dining room for breakfast.

「Got it. Please look forward to our morning special!」

A wooden plate is placed in front of Fran with a **don** . The meal consists of an omelet atop a firm piece of brown bread, 2 sausages, and a serving of boiled carrots. There's also a soup with a couple of other ingredients within.

『How is it?』
「Delicious.」

To Fran who was formerly a slave, this meal must be incredibly delicious — or so I think such while watching her eat with gusto. There, there. Eat a lot to grow big and strong.

（However, Teacher's cooking: more delicious.）

During yesterday's dinner she said the same thing.

『*Haha*, what a nice thing to say.』
（It's true. I want Teacher's Cooking.）

Well, my Cooking Skill has reached the counter stop. Because of that, we're now in the mysterious situation of a sword being the best chef in town. In fact, even though Fran has the same Cooking level as me, I'm a better cook — likely due to my memories of my past life. Even with the King of Cooking Title and the best abilities, it's impossible to match up to food that's never been seen on this world it seems.

It might really become necessary to give thought to preserving large quantities of food created through my Cooking Skill…

『If we get a request that requires us to leave the town, I'll cook some lunch.』
「Looking forward. Must go immediately.」
『Then you'll have to look for a request.』
「Nn.」

We left for the Adventurer's Guild after the meal.

「Hello.」
「Good morning. Have you come to find a request?」
「Nn.」
「The request board is that one over there. Make sure to remember that G Rank Adventurers can only receive G and F Rank requests.」

First, we take a look at the G Rank requests.

There're few G Rank Adventurers here early in the morning it seems, so there's no one in front of the board.

『Harvest Medical Herbs, Hunt Wild Boars, Pluck Weeds from around an Estate, and Pick Garbage off the Road…?』
「Dull.」

『Yeah. The compensation is low, too.』

Next we look at the F Rank requests.

『They're better, but……』

Subjugate 5 Goblins, Exterminate Fang Rats, and Gather Mushrooms from the Forest.

The fact that they're all dull hasn't changed.

Well, it can't really be helped that only requests of this level are present. Besides, Fran's level is low, so it would be best to raise Fran's level by hunting small fry.

「Then, this.」
『Medical herb harvesting. It's our first request, so that would be for the best, right?』

In more detail, the request consists of gathering medicinal herbs used for fifth grade Potions: Heal Grass. There're a lot of them grown in the forest, apparently.

「This.」
「Yes. This request, then. I've confirmed it.」
「Nn.」
「Do you know what Heal Grass looks like? There're documents you can look at if you'd like.」
「I'm OK.」
「I see. You'll need to complete 5 requests in order to rank up, so do your best.」
「Nn. Thank you.」
「Yes.」

We made a big commotion yesterday, but it seems that the Adventurers' favorability towards Nell was high enough to cover for it. Good, good.

『Alright. Let's go!』
「Nn.」

After arriving at the gate, we showed our Guild Card and easily passed through. The gatekeeper seemed to remember Fran and was surprised to see that she was an Adventurer.

『So, which way shall we go?』
「Nn..... That way.」
『Following your heart?』
「Intuition.」

That's a good answer. There's no hurry to complete the request, so it's fine to behave like this.

『We should pick up medical herbs other than Heal Grass along the way. Then, if another request comes out for different herbs we can complete it immediately.』
「Teacher: genius.」
『*Hahaha!* Praise me more!』
「Teacher: amazing genius.」

◇◆◇

We continue advance through the forest at a leisurely pace. We've already harvested enough Heal Grass at this point to complete the request, alongside other herbs, mushrooms, and nuts in large quantities.

Using the Harvesting, Herbalism, and Cooking Skills I can distinguish whether any of the herbs will be useful. Danger Perception also helps in the, because it allows me to sense dangerous mushrooms and herbs even without knowing their name or effects. In other words, it allows me to distinguish materials that can be used for poisons.

Everything's stored in Dimensional Storage, so the only thing that

could be considered a problem is the fact that we have to harvest them one by one. Fran seems to be satisfied with the meal that I cooked, so she's walking in high spirits.

「Teacher.」
『*Ou*.』

Abruptly, Fran stops. But I'm not surprised. I noticed too, after all.

『Goblins. There're no more than 10 of them.』
「Nn.」
『There really are a lot of Goblins around here, huh.』

Fran's hand is already gripping my handle in preparation for a fight, and I don't stop her. Goblins can be hunted safely, and grant decent EXP, so they're fine.

I wouldn't recommend fighting off these numbers for common beginners, though.

『Is an Adventurer surrounded?』
「There.」
『3 Adventurers, huh. As for the Goblins……』
「13.」
『They're high quality ones, too.』

A Soldier, Thief, and Archer seem to be leading the flock of Goblins.

Their opponents seem to be only novice Adventurers. Standing against the flock of Goblins dressed in cheap armor, they can only scowl with pale faces.

『A Soldier, a Ranger, and a Magician. The party's balance is alright, but if the rearguard is approached too closely things would easily take a turn for the worst.』

All of the party's members have received damage to some degree; the Magician in particular seems to have suffered a serious injury.

「I'll rescue.」
『Understood.』
「Shave off with Magic, then break through.」

We both chant spells from Soil Magic in unison. My chant was for the spell Stone・Barrett, which fires off a small stones like a buckshot. Because my MGC is about 5 times higher than the average person, my stones have roughly the same power as bullets. If enemies are grouped up, it's possible to hit multiple bodies at once.

My ability to guide the Skills also seems to be due to Sorcery, but because I can't share it with Fran, she'll have to use magic the normal way.

As for the reason we didn't use Fire Magic, it's because of our location. Forest fires are dangerous.

「Stone・Arrow.」
『Stone・Barrett!』

Fran's magic defeats one, and mine takes out five, so a total of 6 were defeated — one of which was the Goblin Thief.

〈Fran's Level has risen to 6〉

Level Up has come! Well, we have no choice but to ignore it for now.

While both sides are confused about what happened, Fran rapidly approaches the Goblins.

「*Hah*.」

She slides between the Adventurers and Goblins and cuts down two Goblins as she passes by. Of course, I'm also participating in the battle. I take care of the Goblin Archer that would provide the most difficulty for the Adventurers with Stone・Arrow.

「Eh? A child?」

「S-Strong!」

The Adventurers are surprised. The Goblins were as well, but recovered and attempted to strike back with the Soldier Goblin as the lead.

「*GyaGYAOU!*」

Hou. Understanding that their opponent was strong, they attacked with all of their members without hesitation. In spite of being a Goblin, it has good judgment.

『But it's futile! Stone・Barrett!』

I've continued chanting throughout the entire battle. I don't even need to breathe to do so, after all. Because of that, the chant for Stone・Barrett was already complete.

Two Goblins to the right are impaled with stones, causing them to lose their lives after vomiting up blood.

As for two on the left, they aren't even close to a match for Fran.

「Slow.」

Double・Slash is released, and the final two are cut down in an instant.

The situation had been turned on its head within just 20 seconds, so the Adventurers can only watch with befuddled expressions on their faces. I feel like continuing to stare at their goofy faces for a while longer, but it would be bad to leave the injured person as-is.

『Recovery Magic is already making itself useful.』

I check over the Magician's status and find that his HP is simply decreased. There're no physical defects or abnormal states.

『Just a regular Heal will do just fine.』
「――Curing light, Group・Heal」

That spell is the wide-range Lv7 Recovery Magic: Group・Heal. Because the other two were more or less damaged, they were recovered with it as well. What a kind girl, using such a spell for their sake!

「Group・Heal? From such a small child?」
「*Uah!* This isn't some second-grade Magic!」

Astonished, the male Warrior and female Ranger let out words with wide eyes.

「Moreover, is that a Magic Sword…?」

Ah, I've been noticed. Well, there's a clear difference between my appearance and regular swords, so my identity would be revealed to anyone who sees me. *Ahh*—, how troubling.

「That aside, Eustace, are you alright?!」
「Huh? My injury was healed?」

The Magician doesn't seem to have any problems. If he tries to coax Fran to buddy up with their group due to this situation, I might get angry, you know?

「Alright?」
「Y-Yeah. I'm saved.」
「Thank you very much. Hey, you too!」
「Eh? T-Thank you?」

Bowing should come first, that's just the basics. The fools from the other day seemed to have thought differently, however.

「You are…… An Adventurer?」
「Nn.」
「Um, may I ask your name?」

「Fran.」

After that word was spoken, the Adventurers turn to each other and start whispering to one another.

（Do you know that name?）
（I don’t. But it’d be impossible not to know of such an outstanding child…）
（Yeah.）
（I don’t know either.）

Their conversation was probably along those lines.

「I’m Kral. She’s Lily, and he’s Eustace.」

The Warrior gives a polite introduction, but Fran seems to have already lost interest in them.

「I see. Then.」

It seems that she wants to confirm her Status as soon as possible.

『Is that alright? We might get a reward, you know?』
（Compassionate. Want to see Status.）

Is that so. These guys look visibly inexperienced, so we couldn’t really expect a big reward from them anyways. However, while Fran was about to leave, the Warrior leader Kral quickly speaks up.

「Ah, please wait.」
「？」
「These Goblins were the ones that you defeated.」
「Eh? This girl took down all of these Goblins? What are you talking about?」
「Just be quiet!」
「You’ve already saved our lives, we can’t possibly accept anything more than that.」

He has good intentions, so a bad impression might be left if we decline him here.

『Perhaps just taking the materials from higher quality Goblins would be fine?』
「Understood. I'll take high quality.」
「Eh? Highbreeds[1] were mixed in?!」

Hey, hey, you didn't even know that? It might be hard to tell looking at their basic appearance, but they've got bigger physiques and have larger horns.

「Nn.」

Fran ignores the surprise of the three people, and proceeds to strip the Highbreeds of any usable materials at her own pace. The faces of the Adventurers become a bit odd as we do so.

Fran takes the horns and Magic Stones into the bag hanging at her waist. It's a dummy bag, of course. It's simply used as a cover for the items to be put into Dimensional Storage.

「There were three of them?」
「Isn't that a bit dangerous? We should notify the Guild……」
「No, no, wait. Are those really higher kinds?」
「Probably. Their bodies are obviously a bit bigger than the rest.」

We seem to have made them more flustered than expected. A problem of some sort seems to have arisen.

「What?」
「Well, three Highbreeds appeared at the same time, so it has to be reported to the Guild!」
「Why?」
「Huh? You don't know?」
「？」
「If Highbreeds are present, there's a high chance a King has been

born.」
「Nn.」

The Adventurers describe in detail, but here's a rough summary:

When a Goblin King rises to leadership, the combat power of all of the Goblins increases significantly. I knew about this fact as well.

Becoming able to hunt more Demonic Beasts as a group, individual Goblins don't die as often and more Highbreeds can come into existence. In turn, this increases the combat power of the horde and a terrible cycle is born.

In fact, once the horde grows big enough a Queen is born. A Queen was once born in the Plains, too. I suspect that the reason for its existence is to help unify the outskirts of the group when it's grown really big.

Most importantly: children born to the King and Queen Goblins are all Hobgoblins. If the Hobgoblins breed with normal Goblins, their children are Hobgoblins as well.

A single Hobgoblin has a Threat Level of F. A group of them led by a King seems to surpass Threat Level D.

「Things get out of hand if it gets like that. It would become a disaster due to an outbreak of Demonic Beasts.」
「I can't even imagine how many villages would disappear…」

Indeed, for the local Adventurers this would be a matter of life and death. I can only looks at it it as a clump of delicious EXP, but for the present Fran the situation would pose quite a threat. That being the case, we should nip it at the bud.

「We're going to immediately report it to the Adventurer's Guild.」

Saying so, they each pick up a corpse of a Highbreed. Without the bodies, there would be no material serving as evidence after all.

「Nn.」
「Then, please excuse us.」
「Thank you for your help, really.」
「It seems like I was saved by you, so thank you very much!」

And so, we helped some young people and ended up getting the rest of the materials from the Goblins for ourselves. It's not a bad result.

『Now to absorb the Magic Stones.』

After moving away from the novice Party, I take out the Magic Stones and absorb them. I already have all of their Skills, but the accumulation of small things add up eventually. I received them gratefully.

「Hey, Status, look?」
『Yes, ye—s. I'll look now.』
「Nn.」

Name : Fran Age : 12
Race : Black Cat Beastman
Job : Magic Swordsman
State : Contracted

Status:
Level : 6
HP : 80 MP : 71 STR : 45 END : 34 AGI : 46 INT : 30 MGC : 36 DE

The Status values are raising steadily. In particular, STR and MGC both rose by 4. That's most likely an effect from being a Magic Swordsman.

Actually, the effects of being a Magic Swordsman are like this:

Magic Swordsman : Intermediate Job
Requires Sword series Techniques & one Magic type at Lv6 or higher to a

Effects:
When leveling up, STR and MGC will be more likely to raise. Acquisition

It's a very well-balanced Job. I'll tell Fran about the rises in her Status values.

「Good feeling.」
『That's right. Do your best, and it'll keep increasing like this.』
「Ooー!」

The expressionless Fran punching her fists into the air is too cute~ Alright! Let's put in some fighting spirit and look for more prey!

((There's an Author's note regarding a change made to the Receptionist confirming Fran's request. Seeing as the change is already implemented, I've omitted it.))

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[1] 上位種 keeps appearing, and has done so ever since C10 when talking about the Goblins with Jobs, so I've been translating it based off of the context (into things like Higher Species, Higher Quality, etc.), but now I'm just going to use "Highbreeds" as the official title — seeing as that's what they are. Higher (as in superior) members of their species. As for whether I'll change all of the past stuff: Nope. Just consider "Highbreeds" an official title that wasn't declared until now (because Sword-shisho didn't know the official title 'till now). Convenient, amiright?
Other suggestions are welcome, so leave a comment!

Chapter 28: Resolution and Growth

Ensig:
I got a Fever yesterday, and if I raise/lower my head I get dizzy…
Good thing Translating doesn't require much movement!

Enjoy!

※※※

It's been one hour since we parted with the beginner party.

「Double・Slash!」
「**GYAGAGE!**」
「*Shu**GYOGA**ー!*」

〈Fran's Level has risen to 9〉

「It rose.」
『Yes, yes. We'll confirm the changes later.』

We're currently at war with a crowd of Goblins.

I didn't particularly intend to find their den, but we eventually became surrounded by Goblins after hunting them for EXP for a while. There're ~100, probably. Furthermore, multiple Highbreeds are leading them.

『Middle・Heal!』
「Saved.」
『Here they come again!』

hyuh hyuh hyuhyun hyun!

A myriad of stones are thrown towards Fran through the gaps of trees. It seems that it's not just stones, however. Wood chips and

such are mixed within.

The Goblins in the surroundings are all throwing such things in unison. Because the attack is from all sides, avoiding would be impossible.

「Teacher!」
『Aah, leave it to me. Fire・Wall!』

A dome of fire covers Fran's body, protecting her from the projectiles. But their attack wasn't over.

『They're approaching!』
「Nn!」

Fran takes a stance with me in her hands, and when the wall of flames disappears —

「***GORURAA!***」
「*Gyo**GYO**ga!*」
「***Giy*ARU—*!***」

Ten Goblins attack Fran simultaneously. Two of them jumped too early, and crashed into Fire・Wall, causing them to be engulfed in flames and writhe along the ground.

「Heavy・Slash!」

We pass through the crowd exchange blows with the Goblins. Doing so, 5 Goblins were immediately defeated.

「*Gyaha!*」
「***KU**……*」
「Gush*IHAA*!」
「*AU!*」

Striking the Goblins, Fran's small body dances while being colored bright red. Swords tear at her shoulders and Spears bore into her

back,

but Fran bears the pain and continues to hold me in her hands. I wanted to suggest setting Pain Reduction, but losing ones' sense of pain might adversely lead to even more damage.

「*KAAH!*」

The usually quiet Fran lets out a war cry and attacks the Goblins. With that, 10 more are defeated.

This battle of offense and defense has repeated several times, leading to the corpses of a little less than 40 fallen Goblins laying around Fran. Still, the number of Goblins surrounding Fran don't seem to have decreased.

『Middle・Heal!』
「*Fuu… Haa…*」
『Oi, Fran! Are you alright?』
「…… Alright.」
『We should escape soon. There're other methods of gaining EXP, ones even more efficient than this.』

We made light of their numbers… The numbers that the Goblins would put to war.

My body feels neither pain nor fatigue, and is repaired as soon as I sustain damage. For better or worse, I'm able to fight without struggling against strong Demonic Beasts.

But as a result… My sense of danger had been dulled. Things like it's too dangerous, or that Fran wasn't ready yet hadn't even come to mind. I had thought from the bottom of my heart that we'd manage somehow with my power.

And yet, we're now in a hard fight against the Goblins… But it's too late to regret now.

In Recovery Magic is an auto-recovery spell that resurrects the target when their HP becomes 0 — although the Spell is only works once per chant. It's difficult to die when one has this technique, and it makes victory only a matter of time.

But… How much pain would need to be endured, and how much blood would need to be shed until then? Fran still isn't ready to endure such things. Remembering this fight might breed a trauma, so we should withdraw before that occurs.

『They're coming again! We can still escape!』

If it's through Floating and Aerial Jump, making our escape through ascent would be possible. The wall of Goblins would be easy to break through, too.

「Not running.」
『W-What are you saying?! Getting hurt any more than this is pointless! If we go hunt larger Demonic Beasts we'll gain even more EXP!』
「Not pointless.」

Muttering so, Fran takes a stance with me once again. A look of strong determination appears on her face as she does so.

「With Teacher: I won't die. Without dying: pain can be known. Can be used for battle. Then, experience is accumulated.」
『！』
「Fighting to the limit: necessary to be strong, I think. This is… The perfect battleground.」

Saying so, Fran has a ferocious smile.

Ah, I made light of Fran. She had resolved herself long ago. It was only me who wasn't prepared.

My resolution to see Fran hurt wasn't strong enough. Aren't I too naïve? Certainly, if she's led by me her level will rise. But would that

really make her『strong』?

Experience and strength of will. Enduring pain can only happen in battle, so isn't there no meaning in just having one's level raised?

Fran understood that firmly.

「Teacher: guardian.」

Amazing. Unlike living snugly in Japan, readiness is different from being overprotected here.

Alright. I'll also show my resolve. I'm prepared! No more hesitating! Let's abandon my easy-going protective spirit! Even without my protection, she isn't a weak kitten. She's a fierce child — a predator sharpening her fangs!

『Leave the recovery to me!』
「*Nn!* I'm going!」

With that, Fran sprints. She plunges into the crowd of Goblins and swinging me to her heart's content. And as for me, I put my heart and soul into supporting Fran as she accumulates combat experience.

In that way I noticed a change in Fran.

「*Ha!* ***Rah!***」

Haven't her movements become a bit amazing? Even though she isn't using Sword Techniques, her thrusts almost match the speed of Triple・Thrust. Even now, with Double・Slash — no, its movement exceeds Double・Slash.

I had thought Fran was utilizing Sword Arts, but…… That doesn't seem to be the case.

No, wouldn't that be natural? Suddenly getting Sword Arts at a high

level one day, it would be impossible for her body and mind to so easily adapt. So far we had been finishing off small fries and concluding out battles in an instant, so it wasn't a problem… But now, fighting to her limit, her Skills and body have begun working in unison.

Until now only the sharpness of my blade could be admired, but that was only then. Now, things are different. Sword and Body are one. As the number of Goblins increase, the accuracy and ferocity of her attacks does as well.

◇◆◇

Two hours have passed.

「*Ha…… Ha……*」
『Fran, you've done well!』
「Nn……!」

The corpses, blood, and bodily fluids of the Goblins are littered across the ground; it was a disastrous scene that seemed to have come straight from hell. At the center, using me as a cane, Fran barely stands. There're no wounds thanks to Recovery Magic, but her endurance has been stretched to the limit, as can be seen as her shoulders raise and fall intensely.

She's covered in blood, dust, and mud to the extent that not a single surface of her skin is clean. Even the newly bought protective gear was dyed dark red. The damage of the armor in particular is quite terrible, so repairs will be necessary.

If I had attacked more proactively we probably wouldn't have had such a hard fight… But it was necessary for it to be difficult.

Only 6 levels were gained, but the growth that Fran has shown exceeds such things. During the middle of the fight Goblins were defeated exclusively through smashing their Magic Stones — in

other words, during the melee her skill had reached the point where I would pierce into the exact area of the opponents' vital areas.

『–Stamina・Heal』

I cast a Magic used to recover one's endurance, but mental fatigue won't be cured through it.

『Rest a bit. I'll remain vigilant of the surroundings.』

While I do so, I suppose I could secure any usable materials an absorb any remaining Magic Stones…

「I'll help.」
『O-Oi. Are you really alright?』
「Finish quickly: leave quickly.」
『I see…… The King didn't show up in the end, so we should finish before reinforcements come, then.』
「Nn.」
『Alright. Take care of their equipment and horns. As for me, I'll focus on the absorption of Magic Stones.』
「Understood.」

Chapter 29: Spoils from the Goblins

Ensig:
I changed the way text looks, by the way. The reason I did so was mainly because anything in Bold looked kind of weird.
Tell me what you think in the comments!

※※※

Author's Note:
I placed an entry into a Webnovel Competition for the chance to attract more readers!
I've also revised the HP part of the status display to show the numerical value of the previous level.

『Most of it's been collected.』
「Lots.」
『Ou. My Magic Stone Status reached almost 200 in one go.』

Even though there were a bunch of Highbreeds, there were surely more than 100 small fries.

『However, it seems that no Demonic Beasts are approaching.』
「Nn. Pleasant.」

I had thought that the surrounding Demonic Beasts would be attracted to the smell of so much blood, but… They change direction suddenly as soon as they come near. Perhaps even with low intelligence they can still learn to fear the sight of such a disastrous scene. Well, collecting materials was easy because of that as Fran said.

『I obtained some new Skills, too. Moreover, it seems to only be interesting ones.』

Of the spoils obtained from the war against the Goblins, the largest is of course Fran's growth. She's improved in a variety of ways physically.

Also, with the exception of those that were broken or rusted, we've obtained 50 weapons made of Iron and Bronze. There were a couple of forageable suits of Armor as well, but… Well… Because they smelt terrible, most of them had to be discarded. We found a couple of Magic Items as well, which is a good harvest. I'll have to examine them in detail later.

As for the new Skills:

I received Chant Shortening, Balancing Act[6], Retainer's Contract, Kicking Techniques, Kicking Arts, Ghost Magic, Poison Absorption, Poison Magic, Axe Techniques, and Imperturbability.

These Skills came from a Hobgoblin Dark Mage, a Hobgoblin Necromancer, a Hobgoblin Grappler, and Hobgoblin Gladiator.

But that brings about a problem.

『There were Hobgoblins among them, huh.』
「Nn.」

The Four individuals which offered new Skills came from Hobgoblins — which have statuses exceeding the Goblin King from a while back. That can only mean that the Goblin Queen was already born, and breeding has already begun.

『Are the Goblins quick to grow?』
「Un. 10 days: becomes adult.」
『They're seriously on the same level as insects… Anyways, in that case this could be quite dangerous, couldn't it?』

There's the possibility of Hobgoblins being bred in large numbers as we speak.

『It would be best to report back to the Adventurers Guild. I would have liked to hunt them all down with just us, but leaving the situation alone could lead to heavy damage.』
「Nn.」

For now, we should collect the Hobgoblin corpses —

『Fran!』
「Nn.」

I snap up and rush towards Fran, and she calmly catches me with a firm grasp.

「Over there!」
「Oi, are these all Goblins?」
「What is this devastation……?!」
『It seems like we were spared the trouble.』

The new arrivals are Adventurers. Among them are the figures of the novices we had helped a couple of hours ago, so they seem to have completed their report of the Goblins and successfully got the Guild to send a dispatch.

Dangerous, dangerous. I was almost seen moving about freely.

「Lass, are you alright?!」
「Are you injured?」
「Alright.」
「This…… Was this all done by you?」
「Nn.」

The 10 Adventurers have looks of surprise as Fran nods her head.

「This many…… With just one person?」
「If that's true, Rank E…… No, Rank D. A Rank D Adventurer could take care of an army of this size. It doesn't seem like a small den, though… No, it's far, far larger.」
「Eh?! Rank D?!」

「Seriously…?」

They seem to have come to that conclusion at their own convenience. Certainly an Adventurer's Rank is associated with monsters' Threat Levels, but…

The same Rank as the Demonic Beast is usually only given if a well-prepared party can face off without suffering any fatalities. At the same time, the power of an Adventurer fighting alone would be lower than a Demonic Beast of the same Rank.

In other words, if Adventurers of Rank E create a party of ~4-6 people, their combat potential will allow them to hunt a *single* Demonic Beast of Threat Level E. At the same time, every member of the party would be able to fight equally with Demonic Beasts of Rank F.

『Hmm~, one Goblin is G, 10 is F, and 100 is E, so…』

To Fran who defeated 100 Goblins singlehandedly, Rank D would be a bit low, wouldn't it? Moreover, the Goblins had the environmental advantage of the forest, and even had a large number of Highbreeds mixed within their numbers. That should also raise the evaluation, even if only a little.

A Dwarven man who seems like the leader of the dispatch explains that to the group. Mh, mhh! It's nice hearing Fran be praised! Praise her more!

However, it seems that Fran doesn't care much for their evaluation. Interrupting the Dwarf, she places the body of a Hobgoblin in front of the group with a **thud*[1].

「This.」
「This is… A Hobgoblin?」
「There.」
「Moreover, four of them?」

「They're already at stage where Hobgoblins are leaving the den…?!」

This situation seems to quite last-minute. If left alone, chances are a Goblin invasion will occur in less than 10 days.

「Oops, sorry. I've forgotten self-introductions. The name's Hellbent[2]. I'm a D Rank Adventurer from Aressa. What's your name, lass?」
「Fran.」
「Are you on a journey? Thanks for stopping the Goblins here.」
「? Adventurer from Aressa too.」
「Muh? No, I've been in Aressa for over 10 years, but I have no memory of seeing you, lass……」

It would be hard to miss the expressionless Fran who's small, beautiful, and strong besides. The 3 men who seem to be party members of Hellbent nod as well. Another party, this one consisting of Beastmen, show a similar reaction.

「Registered yesterday.」
「Ha?」
「No way! What Rank are you, then?」
「G.」
「*Haaa?* You're this strong yet you're Rank G? What kind of joke is that?!」
「No, strength and Rank don't always match up. For example, Elves can train for many years in the woods. If they come out to the rest of the world and register as an Adventurer, they'd be Rank G even though their power would match Rank D.」
「I-I see.」
「That's right, isn't it~」
「Ahh, we were in the wrong for doubting you, Fran!」

Aah, it ended up like this after all. For long-lived races, young aged appearances mean nothing. The setting of having several years of experience would be far easier to understand than the truth.

『These guys are making a big misunderstanding all on their own, is it alright not to correct them? Surely they're thinking that Fran looks young but is actually a middle-aged woman.』
（Doesn't matter.）

She seems so uninterested in their evaluation that it's refreshing. Regrettable. I wanted to see these guys' surprised faces when the truth was revealed. Well, it would be troublesome to explain, so it's fine.

「A-Anyways, we have to find the Queen's Den before the situation gets out of hand. We should return to the Guild at once!」
「Yeah. It's selfish, but I'd like the young lass to come with us as well.」
「Understood.」
「That takes a load off our shoulders. Alright, let's head back! It's a race against time!」
「Ou!」

Name : Fran　Age : 12
Race : Black Cat Beastman
Job : Magic Swordsman
State : Contracted

Status:
Level : 6→12
HP : 80→189　MP : 71→115
STR : 45→92　END : 34→74　AGI : 46→82
INT : 30→50　MGC : 36→62　DEX : 47→63

Titles[4]:
King of Dismantling, Master of Recovery, Skill Collector, Master of Fire, 〈New〉Match for a Thousand, Goblin Slayer, One who Slaughters[5]

Fran's Status looks like this. The increase in Status is extremely good. Furthermore, she gained three more Titles!

Match for a Thousand:
A Title awarded to individuals who stood their ground against 100 or mo

Effects:
HP +20, STR +20, END + 20
The Skill: Indomitable Resolve will be acquired.

Goblin Slayer:
A Title awarded to individuals who fell 100 or more Goblins on the same

Effect:
The Skill: Goblin Slayer will be acquired.

One who Slaughters:
A Title awarded to individuals who harvested the lives of 100 individuals

Effects:
AGI +10
The Skill: Mental Stability will be acquired.

For the Skills:

Indomitable Resolve:
In adverse circumstances:
Fear is invalidated
Recovery Speed ↑ High

Goblin Slayer:
Damage against Goblins ↑

Mental Stability:
Mental hurdle against bloodshed ↓
Stabilizing effect on the user's mind

They're good Titles. I want them too, but because I'm a sword, I don't seem to be able to obtain any Titles. Anyways, Match for a Thousand is amazing. The conditions for acquiring it are difficult,

but isn't it a slight cheat? Its Effects, that is.

I noticed something important, too. The Skills that Fran obtained independently aren't included with my Set Skills.

Because of this, if Fran obtains useful Skills on her own, I can change my Set Skills in more useful ways.

While we head towards town with the Adventurers, I tell Fran about her Status.

(Match for a Thousand? Rare.)
『Is that so?』
(Hero's Titles!)

Fran shows slight excitement. I'm glad.

「Hey, have you not joined a Party yet, lass?」
「Party?」
「Ou. If you haven't, why not join ours?」

Hellbent is soliciting us into his party, huh. Moreover, his eyes show that he's completely serious. Hearing what he said, the other two parties also raised their voices.

「– Wait just a minute, you're not the only one aiming for that!」
「Don't try to steal the lead. Any Party would want such an excellent Adventurer among them.」

This is somewhat pleasant, hearing that Fran was accepted by the Adventurers

『Well? What shall you do?』
(My Party: Teacher)
『It's possible to hide my identity even if you join other parties, you know?』
(It's alright. Teacher: here.)
『Is that so…』

Well, we can't afford for my abilities to be seen, so it would be difficult to join a party.

For now, at least.

---

[1] Rather than an actual sound, an expression was used here. It's ドサッと — literally "with a thud"

[2] This guy's name is really weird. It's this: エレベント. "エレ" = Helle/Here, "ベント" = Bent/Vent/Wendt. As per the suggestion of **Mach** and **mllhild**, his name shall be Hellbent. Putting it into a text voice machine also makes it sounds like "Hellbent", so there it is.

[4] Regarding the titles, I decided to change the way the "King" Titles were worded for the sake of partial-uniformity with the "Master of" Titles.

[5] 殺戮者. If they sounded alright/were grammatically correct, I would have used Slaughterer or Massacrer... But "One who Slaughters" works just as well, I think.

[6] (Note from the future) Balancing Act (軽業) is extremely similar to Acrobatics (曲芸) when translated. Search up the Japanese characters and you'll find that the former is usually involving public acrobatics/balancing acts, and the latter refers to a certain Moogle class from Final Fantasy, specifically one of its skills: Acrobatics.

Chapter 30: Ranking Up

Author's Note:
We're at 30 chapters now. This is all thanks to the support of everyone;
it's my main motivation!

In addition, I changed the Status view in Chapter 29 because it was difficult to see the improvements. I also revised her HP, because a value of 20 is Low, so it now looks like the following:

Status Level : 6→12
HP : 80→189 MP : 71→115
STR : 45→92 END : 34→74 AGI : 46→82
INT : 30→50 MGC : 36→62 DEX : 47→63

After the incident with the Goblins, we rushed back to Aressa and finally arrived. I had wanted to repair Fran's protective gear, but it seems like it'll have to wait until after we finish business at the Guild.

I removed dirt and stains from the gear with Purification Magic as an act of etiquette, but its severely damaged appearance hasn't changed. None of the Adventurers nearby seem to mind it, however.

「Hellbent, how was it?」
「Ou. We need to report to the Guild Master.」
「I'll notify him, please wait a moment.」

Seeing the serious face of Hellbent, the fact that the situation is dire was clear. Nell rushes towards the back in a hurry.

Several minutes later, Nell comes back and calls for Fran and the dispatch.

「The Guild Master sent for you. This way.」

When we entered the Guild Master's office, both he and Donna were present.

「Let's hear the report.」
「Aah. We headed to the scene with Kral, which is where we met Fran.」
「At that point the battle was already over.」
「I see. Then I'd like request that Fran……」

The Guild Master sighs lightly — likely because he understands Fran's taciturn nature. 『How should I have her talk?』is the face he's making. Well, should I lend my suppor here? It seems to be quite the urgent situation, after all.

「Can you report what happened?」
『Fran, take out the Horns.』
「Nn. This.」

Fran takes a Hobgoblin Horn out of Dimensional Storage, and brings it out of dummy bag.

「This is…… A Hobgoblin Horn?」

When the Guild Master understands what it is through Appraisal, he makes a stern expression.

「Mixed among the Goblins there were Hobgoblins?! How many Goblins were there? And how many Hobgoblins as well?」

Donna picks up the horn and becomes astonished as well.

「A lot.」
「Er… In a bit more detail, please.」
『There were around 130 of them.』
「Around 130.」
『Within them were 4 Hobgoblins, and around 20 Highbreeds.』

「Hobgoblins: 4, Highbreeds: around 20.」
「Impossible!」

Donna stands up unintentionally.

「This is definitely a sign that a Goblin stampede is coming!」
「Calm down Donna.」
「E-Excuse me.」
「Now then, Fran, a question. What happened to the Goblins? Did you withdraw?」
「Defeated them.」
「So you didn't withdraw, then.」
「Nn. Fought to the end.」
「This is bad.」

What's bad?

The Guild Master explains that the Goblins Fran defeated were most likely the ones kicked out of the den when there were too many mouths to feed. As breeding was continually ordered by the King, the low-class Goblins would no longer be able to match up to their children, so they were sent to battle Fran with the resolution to die.

Furthermore, the fact that there were Hobgoblins and Highbreeds mixed among them could only mean that the den already consists of purely Hobgoblins.

「The scale of the Goblin stampede will be large.」
「We should put an emergency summon out to the Adventurers immediately.」
「We'll prepare today and tomorrow, and attempt to exterminate the den the day after. Will it be that sort of plan?」
「Yeah. The first step would be getting Adventurers with Thief-like Jobs locate the den. That should be made into a special request.」
「I'll secure some Potions.」

It's become quite busy. Receptionists (excluding Nell who was

already present) were called in and given various instructions.

「Now then, Hellbent. I'd like to assign more work to you, is that alright?」
「Is it guidance to the battleground?」
「It is. I'd like you to return there with Thief Adventurers.」
「Got it. This situation is serious for all of Aressa, so I'll do everything I can.」

At the words of Hellbent, the other Adventurers nod vigorously a well. They seem like they want to stick with Fran as well, but I won't permit it.

We have to repair her protective gear, and after that she needs time to rest. I won't concede on that.

「Fran…… Please take a rest for today. Asking you to work with your protective gear would be unreasonable.」
「…… Nn.」

Fran nods regretfully. Guild Master, good job!

Hellbert gives his affirmation, too.

「Then.」
「Aah, wait a minute. Before you leave, go by the Receptionists and apply to rank up to F.」
「? Haven't completed 5 requests.」
「There's no reason for an Adventurer who could take out an army of Goblins alone to do that. There's also the fact that G Ranks won't be able to join this subjugation, so the timing'll be convenient.」
「*Gahahaha!* Even just one more strong Adventurer'd be better at this point!」
「It's a pretty last-minute request, so we don't know how many Adventurers will be participating. Considering that, anyone with combat potential is valuable.」
「The request to participate in the subjugation should be posted

tomorrow, so be sure to accept it!」
「Nn. Make sure.」
「We're saved.」
「Then…」

Following the words of the Guild Master, we do the Rank Up procedure at the reception desk. It was simple, so there weren't any particular problems. The time taken would be less than a minute, too. After completing it, the letter F appeared on our Guild Card.

「Went up!」

She seems happy. The evaluations of others doesn't matter, but when the Rank actually raises visibly she takes interest, it seems. It's just like Levels. Well, it's a measure of her strength, after all.

『Alright, our participation is assured. Now, we should go repair your gear. Will the money we have on-hand suffice, I wonder?』
「Sell weapons.」
『To the Guild?』

When we inquired about it, we received the reply that the Guild didn't purchase anything other than Materials and things like Herbs.

『Well, let's take them to Gallus then.』

The problem is whether a skilled Blacksmith like Gallus would be willing to take in such bad weapons or not…

『No, wait. There's still one other person, a Merchant we're acquainted with!』
「？」
『Oi, oi… Well, his presence was thin, so I suppose it can't be helped. It's Randell.』
「Aah.」

Stop with the「There was a person like that, wasn't there…」

reaction… Well, I don't really know him that well either.

『He had said that he's located along the Western side of main street, I think.』
「Search.」

◇◆◇

I was worried about whether we'd be able to find Randell's shop in a big town like Aressa, but it was found quite quickly; it was right near the entrance to the street. Randell can be seen standing out front.

「Oh, if it isn't Fran! By any chance, were you looking for my shop?」
「Nn. Came to sell.」
「Wonderful! Come, come, right this way.」

And so Randell invites us into his shop.

『It's very disorderly, isn't it…』

In the small shop, the shelves are crammed with products. Honey and poison are lined side by side, weapons are neighbors to miscellaneous goods… But it's not consistently like that.

「Dirty.」
『Oou… Even though I was going out of my way to be silent about, you went right out and said it!』

When I look over to Randell, I see a wry smile plastered across his face.

「*Haha*… You said it well. Even though I just organize them by what seems to sell…」

Even so, aren't there a bit too many products? Well, it's not my place to say so, so I keep that to myself. For the average person, this place would be hard to approach, however.

「This: buy.」
「*Uwa*... You had an Item Bag, huh!」
「More or less.」

Equipment is taken out one after another, some of which draw Randell's attention.

「Still, this is……! What an amazing amount!」
「Still more. About the same.」
「Ehh? Wait a minute. I'm sorry about this, but could you display them on the floor?」
「Understood.」
「It must be pretty high-quality to store so much... Mine's pretty small and hard to use, so I'm a bit envious.」

Just like a pro, he makes small talk while assessing the arms. His eyes are sharp; it's the face of a merchant.

「Hmm, most of them aren't in good condition.」
「From Goblins.」
「Aah, so that's where you got them. Some are made from Steel, so they'd be worth a little more…… It'd be about 13,000 Gorudo total, I suppose?」
（Alright?）
『They're worth about 200 Gorudo on average, huh…… Looking at their state, it seems like it'd be a good price?』
「Understood. That's fine.」

Randell takes out some coins from what must be is Item Bag.

「Here you go then.」
「Nn.」

All of the money was tucked away in Dimensional Storage. Because they're easy to take out, it makes a good substitute for a wallet.

「Thank you very much. And please, come again.」

There're a lot of interesting products, so we'll probably come again. At that time, let's buy something.

With money in hand, we head to old man Gallus' shop. Merchants are assembled around the square as always, so we enter from the back door we used the other day.

「Hello—.」
「Ooh, it's you! What happened? The Sheath isn't done yet.」
「Nn, different.」
『I'd like you to repair the Equipment you sold earlier……』

Showing him the protective gear「W-What the hell–?!」was his reaction.

「Wait a minute, it's only been a day…… What in the world happened?」
「Fought Goblins.」
「Goblins?」
『To be exact: a large army of Goblins numbering over 100.』
「Hobgoblins, too.」
「*Haa?* Isn't that really serious?! A stampede's going to occur!」
『It's already been reported to the Adventurer's Guild.』
「*Ah*, is that so. Well, that's fine then.」
「Teacher: benevolent.」
「Teacher?」
『That would be my name.』

That reminds me, I didn't tell Gallus my name, did I? But I have a bad premonition…

「*Haa?* Why such a strange –」
『Isn't it such a good name? Fran thought of it!』

Notice, Gallus!

「O-Ooh. It's… A good name. Really.」

『Right? Isn't that right?』
「It's the best name! It's an excellent name for a sword!」

Phe—w... That was close. Gallus continues praising my name while looking over at Fran frequently. ... It's unnatural.

「T-That reminds me, you came to get your gear fixed, right?」
『That's right! Can it be fixed? We have to go assist in the Goblin subjugation the day after tomorrow.』
「No problem. Repairs can be finished immediately.」
「Cost?」
「Right..... 10,000 Gorudo.」
『That's quite cheap.』
「Well, that's the price of the Magic Crystal.」
『Magic Crystal?』
「Yeah, unlike Magic Stones, Magic Crystals are a mined from the ground. After storing enough magic power they can be used as catalysts.」
『This is the first time I've heard of it.』
「It's not needed for regular repairs, but it's necessary to use one for Smithing Magic.」
『Then you'll be repairing the gear through Magic?』
「Ou. Want to watch?」
『Is that alright?』

In the end I decide to take up old man Gallus' offer, and watch him repair Fran's gear.

First he places the gear on top of a workbench with a Magic formation drawn on it, then he puts a yellow Magic Crystal onto a what seems to be a pedestal.

After that, he proceeds to cast a spell with a long chant.

「– Repair!」

With the sound of Gallus' voice, the magic formation shines bright.

Once the light is completely settled, protective gear that seems as though it's brand new is all that's left on the workbench.

「Amazing.」
『Aah. They're as good as new.』
「It's pretty convenient for stuff like this, but its effect falls when it's used on gear too many times. I got off with a small Magic Crystal this time, but next time I'll have to use one a bit bigger. The fee'll be 30,000 when that happens.」

If that's the case, it might be cheaper to buy a new set later… I'll make sure to consider that when the time comes.

「Thank you.」
「No problem. I've got to do well so that you can do your best fighting against Hobgoblins!」
「Leave it to me.」
『We'll defeat both the King and the Queen!』
「Nn. Our prey.」
「*Hahahaha!* How reliable!」

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 31: Organization and Verification

It's now the night of the day we exterminated the army of Goblins.

We're at an inn.

『Now then, shall I review my new Skills?』

Fran already left to take a bath, so I figure I should confirm my Skills to kill some time.

By the way, this inn isn't the same one we stayed at yesterday. We moved to a slightly better inn recommended by the Guild. It has the expensive fee of 600 Gorudo per night, but there's a large Bathhouse and the food they offer is of higher quality and quantity.

I mentioned it before, but the new Skills are like this:

Chant Shortening, Balancing Act, Retainer's Contract, Kicking Techniques, Kicking Arts, Ghost Magic, Poison Absorption, Poison Magic, Axe Techniques, Imperturbability

Because I unfortunately can't use Kicking Techniques, Kicking Arts, and Axe Techniques, I'll exclude them. Also, because Imperturbability seems to have the effect of calming its user down in battle, I can't try it here.

And so, first is Balancing Act. It grants a bonus to both jumping and balancing, it seems. I tested it out by flying about in the room, but it doesn't have much of an effect on me. Regrettable. I think it'd be a suitable Skill for Fran.

Now for a show-stopper. It's time for the inspection of new Magic.

First: Poison Magic. For the spells I can use, they're Poison・Arrow and Create・Poison. Well, because it's only Lv1 they only have the

effects of a weak poison, so they don't seem like they'll have much of an effect against strong opponents. Even if it was used on ordinary people its effect would only be to the extent of loosening their bowels[1].

I test out Poison Absorption by sucking in some poison I created with magic, but I don't understand it very well. It seems that it'd restore HP and MP, but because I have neither there's no effect. Poison Absorption would be useful in environments with poisonous fogs, however. I could play an active part as a sword with air purification capabilities.

Next is Chant Shortening. Its effects are hardly visible at Lv1 — it probably shortens the chant by ~1 second, I think? Even in a drawn out battle its impact would be low. Furthermore, I have the feeling that its effect won't be that amazing even if I raise its Skill Level.

Out of the remaining Skills, my favorite is Ghost Magic, so I'll save it for last.

The other remaining Skill is Retainer's Contract. It seems to make a specialized contract with Contract Magic in order to summon individuals with Summon Kin, but… Because the level of Summon Kin is low I can't summon anything strong even if they're contracted. I could summon weak ones, but if they're weak then there's no point in using it in the first place.

『Now for Ghost Magic.』

Incidentally, despite being called Ghost Magic spells at Lv1 are Create・Lesser Zombie and Locate・Undead, these two.

For the time being, I take out a Goblin's corpse. Making a barrier using Purification Magic, blood doesn't dirty the floor. My forethought is flawless.

『– Create・Lesser Zombie!』

「***Aaao****ooouaaa…*」
『*Uwaa……*』

Even though I'm the one who made it, it's still unpleasant! Does its decomposition advance before it becomes a Zombie or something? It's good that I don't have a nose… I understand the feelings of Kri**in[2] well.

『Wait there.』
「*Auu…*」
『Did you hear my command?』

I have to pay careful attention here. All it's doing is swaying in place, but still.

Next, I use Locate・Undead. Similar to Presence Perception, I was able to feel the presence of the Zombie.

Well, now I've tried out both spells, but…… What do I do with this guy, exactly?

Ah, speaking of which, what's the status of Summon Kin? *Uwa…* Lesser Goblin Zombie is listed. Can't I delete this?

『…… I'm sorry.』
「*Aa–*」

I gave a brief apology and cut down the Zombie. I don't know if Zombies from Dungeons are the same, but this Zombie doesn't have a Magic Stone.

To the Zombie who's no longer moving, I use Purification Magic's Turn・Undead, causing it to disappear. The Zombie also disappeared from the list of contracted beings in Summon Kin.

『Un, rest in peace.』

From now on, let's not use Ghost Magic recklessly. I'll make sure

your death wasn't in vain, Goblin Zombie! Ah, wait, it was already dead.

『..... Let's pull ourselves together and move on.』

Next I'll check the Magic Items we looted from the Goblins.

『There're 7. I wonder what effects they'll have...』

Two of the items are weapons. Specifically, they're a Knife and a Hammer, both made of steel. Neither have things like ATK ↑ Low, but the Knife looks like it'd be useful for skinning. As for the Hammer, I'll let it sit in Dimensional Storage for a while.

One of the Magic Items is an accessory. It has the subtle effect of lowering INT while raising STR.

『STR+5, INT-8..... This is the sort of item a musclebrain would use, isn't it?』

Fran won't be needing it. She uses Magic, so it would really only be considered if the increase and decrease were equal.

The next three are defensive gear. There's Iron Armor with rust prevention, Leather Armor with size adjustment, and a Helmet made out of materials from a Magic Tree with Impact Resistance.

Because their DEF attributes are so low, aren't they simply unneeded? The gear we received from old man Gallus offers much higher performance.

The last one is an Item Bag... But it can't be used.

『Wasn't there something like a User Registration for these?』

I suppose it'd be similar to Equipment Registration. The Goblins had used it as an accessory case for storing stones and nuts to use Throwing with.

『Perhaps I can override the registration…… Maybe Contract Magic'll work?』

Might as well try it out.

『–Contract!』

It was no good. It was the same feeling as when I tried to override Fran's Slave Contract. Overwriting *is* possible, but Lv7 is just too low to do so.

『Hmm… To find out what's in the bag, let's raise the Skill~』

Such a thing will be put on hold for a while.

『The remaining money is……』

Today's earnings come to 109 Goblin Horns, and 20 Highbreed Horns. By the way, one Highbreed Horn is 100 Gorudo.

The completion of the Herb Harvesting request also granted 100 Gorudo.

Because I handed 10,000 Gorudo to Fran, I have exactly 36,884 Gorudo stored up.

『Should I buy Mana Potions for the day after tomorrow? It doesn't seem like it'd be a waste to do so.』

Rather, will that be enough?

『There're still a lot of enigmatic materials stored away from Harvesting, too…』

I should sort this stuff out.

10 Poisonous Grasses, 10 Light Mushrooms, 10 Paralysis-Cure Grass, 10 Highly Poisonous Grasses, and 10 Heal Grasses. Because each

Harvesting Request requires 5 of each, we can complete 10 requests. However, because we ranked up to Rank F faster than expected, we won't be able to improve our Rank with G Rank requests anymore.

The only Harvesting request of Rank F is for 5 Highly Poisonous Grasses, so if we hand in the ones we have we'll still need to complete the request another 18 times.

Because Dungeons are restricted by Rank, I want to raise our Rank just a bit more.

Anyways, there're still 30 mysteriously hazardous substances. Most of them seem harmless enough, but there're 2 Mushrooms that're quite dangerous. They set off a large reaction to Danger Perception, and even their appearance spells danger. They're blue umbrella-like mushrooms with white and red spots — no matter how you look at them, they're Toadstools.

『Only these mushrooms will be kept in reserve. We should take them[3] over to Randell's shop later.』

I'd like to collect information on Hobgoblins in advance, so tomorrow will be quite busy.

---

[1] 腹を下す. I thought that it might be "Upset stomach", but it really is just as I translated it.
In my opinion, poisons like this one are still pretty convenient in certain situations.

[2] Reference to Krillin from DBZ. クリ〇ン = クリリン

[3] Not sure if this is referring to the two Mushrooms, or the other ones. あとは、ランデルの店にでも持って行ってみるか
My guess is that it's the Toadstools that'll be sold to Randell, with the other things going to the Guild/wherever.

. | **Main** | .

Chapter 32: Fran's Side

Author's Note: Bookmarks now exceed 200.
Thank you!

「*Fu…… Ha……*」

Baths are the best. When I told teacher that I loved them, he was somewhat surprised. 『You're a cat, though?』he said.

Do cats dislike baths? I'm from the Black Cat tribe, but I've never seen a cat before. Nobles in the capital seem to keep them. Mother had said that they live better lives than us.

I want to see one with Teacher sometime.

Teacher is a very wonderful sword. He's the first sword I've talked to, but if he's judged by his voice, he'd be similar to a Human I suppose.

He's very strong. He made me strong, too. I won't be outdone by a Demonic Beast. But as I am now is no good. I can't constantly be managed by Teacher. I'll become a burden to him.

Even for the Goblins we fought today, if Teacher fought alone not only would the fight have been easier, it would have ended quicker as well.

Mastering the powers I got from Teacher should be my first priority. After that, I'll become even stronger. Training like that, I think I'll surely be able to break through the Wall.

And so, today I spoke a bit selfishly and fought against the Goblins. Teacher scolded me at first, but then he forgave and even praised me.

I was very glad. I'll be fighting the day after tomorrow, too. It's another chance to become stronger.

「Oh, Fran?」
「Nn?」
「We met at noon. Because the Guild is allied with this Inn, all members of the Guild staff can use the bathhouse.」

Aah, this person is one of the receptionists.

「Are you staying here?」
「Nn.」
「*A—ah*, still cute as ever, huh~」
「？」
「Kya— your head tilt rally is the best!」

When she was working, she was giving off a much quieter feeling. Was she hiding her true nature?[1]

「Hey, is calling you Fran-chan[2] no good?」
「Don't mind.」
「Thank you very much! Fran-chan!」

All of a sudden she clung to me. I don't mind, but it was a bit surprising. Her chest made a slight **funii** and it's comfortable, so I'll permit it.

「The big subjugation war will be happening tomorrow, huh.」
「Nn.」
「Did you hear the announcement?」
「？」
「It seems that you haven't. Apparently the Goblins seem to be overflowing from a dungeon of some sort.」
「Dungeon nearby?」

Dungeons are naturally famous once they're discovered, but I've never heard of one being near Aressa.

「It seems to have appeared only recently… Up until now there was only a cave there.」
「Dungeons can be built that quickly?」
「Mhm. That's right.」
「？」
「*Ahh*, you don't know? As a trial of sorts against mankind, the God of Chaos makes them appear in various places every so often.」
「Didn't know. God of Chaos and Evil God: different?」
「My, you don't know that either, huh. Your elder sister here'll explain it all to you.」

And so, the receptionist explained the legends.

「To put it simply, this world has 88 Gods. Among them, there were 10 that were especially strong.」

[3]First, the God of the Sun, the God of the Moon, the God of the Sea, the God of the Land, the God of Flames, the God of Storms, the God of Forests, and the God of Beasts created the world and all its inhabitants.
The God of Hades created the Ring of Samsara[4], and the laws of the world were made.
The 78 Children Gods made various materials, and brought them to the world the Parent Gods had made, thus making the world larger.

「Children Gods?」
「That's right. The God of Blacksmithing, God of Swords, God of Darkness and God of Cooking are good examples of those.」

Finally, the God of Chaos did as its name suggested, and spread chaos into the world. But it was a necessary evil to prevent the stagnation of the world… Or so the receptionist says. Its job seems like quite the challenge.

I understood it well. Surpassing adversity leads to growth. Fighting against the Goblins, I was able to grow.

「And the Evil God?」
「Originally, the Evil God was the God of War. But after indulging itself too much in its power and attempting to rule the world, the other Gods struck it down. It's said that evil beings are born due to its excessive grudge — through a curse that it scattered across the lands.」
「I see.」

So, in the end, the God of Chaos is good. The Evil God is bad. He's like the Slave Traders that kidnapped me.

「Anyways, as I said: Dungeons are one of the trials that the God of Chaos created. Dungeon Masters are followers of the God of Chaos, and actively create chaos because of it.」

Dungeon Master… Would they have any Magic Stones for Teacher to eat? They're sure o have a lot of great Skills.

「It's still being researched, but it seems that the first thing done in creating a dungeon is the creation of its core. The creature that is closest to the Core when its created becomes the Dungeon Master.」
「Weak and strong ones, then.」
「Yep. The difficulty of the Dungeon depends on the strength of the Dungeon Master, so when an animal ends up being the Dungeon Master its difficulty tends to be lower.」
「Strange Dungeon Masters too?」
「Dragons, Orcs, Wolves, Cockatrices… So long as they emit a life force, they can be a Dungeon Master.」
「People?」
「Of course. Human Dungeon Masters have popped up several times in the past.」

Man-made Dungeons… Interesting.

「Well… Even if it's called a trial from God, it isn't any less troublesome.」

Because people will end up dying, that can't be helped. The people looking for a fight like me are the minority.

「In the case of rare Demonic Beasts inhabiting a Dungeon, however, it can be used to make a living as an Adventurer.」

Dungeons aren't purely bad things. There are people who can become rich because of them.

「There're Treasure Chests, strong weapons, and magical items too.」

There's a legend of a Hero who defeated an Evil Dragon with a weapon found in a dungeon; he later went on to found a country. But because I have Teacher, things like that aren't necessary.

「But in the end, some items from Dungeons are too strong～ They can be used in wars to cause just as much harm as good, don't you think～?」

In the end, the conversation shifted to the complaints of the receptionist.

I don't hate the God of Chaos for letting me get stronger in Dungeons.

「Day after tomorrow: looking forward to it.」

---

[1] Fran made a pun here. Essentially, she used "Neko" as the start of what would have essentially translated to "Wolf in sheep's clothing/hiding one's true self" — or in this case, the closest would be "hiding one's true cat". She then followed up with "She's a human, though." It doesn't translate over very well (as in at all), so I edited the line. The pun disappeared, but that can't be helped.

[2] The receptionist (and many other people, such as the Adventurer parties up until this point) have used -san up until this point. -chan is more familiar, if you didn't know.

[3] Regarding the Gods' names:

- "God of the Silver Moon" (銀月の神) was kept as just "Moon", but I'll change it if it turns out there's more than just a single moon (and other Gods of other moons, respectively).
- "God of Storms" = "God of wind and rain" (風雨の神)
- "God of Beasts" = "God of animals and insects" (獣蟲の神が)
- "God of Hades" = Literally "God of Hades" or "God of the realm of the dead" (冥界の神が).

[4] Samsara = Endless cycle of death and rebirth. Buddhism, I think.

Chapter 33: Arrangements before the Departure

Ensig:
Slowly getting back into the groove of things. *Slowly*.

※※※

Author's Note:
We've reached 59th place of the daily rankings before I knew it!
Getting within the top 300 was my original goal……
So this is thanks to everyone's support!

Let's aim for the top 50s next!
Or rather, I'll do my best to keep the story from suddenly becoming dull!

It's the day of the Hobgoblin subjugation.

We ended up going over to old man Gallus' smithy in order to receive the sheath we ordered.

「Hey, I've been waiting. Come and take a look!」
『Ooh, this is my sheath, huh!』

Handed over from old man Gallus was a stylish black leather scabbard. It's a bit plain, but because the tailoring is good it doesn't look too shabby.

「Nn, Teacher.」
『Mhm. Then, right away……』

I'm excitedly sheathed into the scabbard as Fran raises the scabbard up to just below my eye-level.

supo

『*O—h……*』

It's very calming. It's roughly the same feeling I got when I fit into the pedestal. Rather, it might have been that the pedestal was designed to be sheath-like to give me peace of mind.

『*A—hh……*』

I let out a voice as if I'm in paradise — the kind that one would let out when they take a dip in a hot bath. This really is good… I didn't know that swords would have such a strong desire to be sheathed, even though I am one.

Moreover, thanks to the skill of old man Gallus it's a perfect fit. It's like I'm tucked into my own personal futon, giving me peace of mind. If it's like this, then I want to be in a sheath all the time… It's just that relaxing.

『Old man Gallus. You're the best. Seriously.』
「*Gahaha!* It's good that you like it!」
「Teacher, happy.」
『Yeah, this is a great sheath~』
「It's not just a regular sheath, you know?」

Gallus had an impish smile on his face as he took the sheath in his hand.

「Rather than just making some dull old scabbard, I installed a couple of tricks, you see.」
『What?! Is that true, Lon**rk[1]?!』
「Lon**rk? Who's that?」
『Ah, excuse me. I was a bit too excited.』

Still, there're tricks in the sheath? Looking at it, I don't see anything…

「See these metal fittings here?」
「Mhm.」
「Well, when you remove them like this –」

paka

「Opens lengthwise.」
「Ou. Even without using the young miss' hands, you'll easily be able to get out of the sheath by using Telekinesis.」
『Hmm? That's pretty good. It'd also make it easy to get back into the sheath.』

Controlling the metal fittings using Telekinesis, moving in and out of the sheath can be accomplished in no time.

「Convenient.」
「Right? It was a bit tough to find a good way to implement it while keeping its strength, you know?」

Even though he's a Blacksmith, his leatherworking is first class. As expected from someone with Blacksmithing at the highest level possible.

『Then, may I gratefully accept?』
「*Ou*. Go for it.」
「Nn.」

Now to go to the meeting place. It seems that everyone who'll be participating in the subjugation will be gathered in front of the gate. Because the Goblins haven't started pouring out of the Dungeon just yet, it seems like it'll be possible to exterminate them without causing any damage to the surroundings.

『I wonder how much damage we'll be able to do with this many Adventurers…』

There're about 50 people gathered.

「Not very strong.」
『Donna is the strongest, it seems.』

Donna is Rank C, and is famous as an instructor who trains beginners. There're other Adventurers of Rank C gathered, but there didn't seem to be any objections with Donna being the leader.

「Oi, what's a child doing here?!」

For Fran, however, there seems to be an objection. Well, to a group of Adventurers with their tension rising by the second, having a young girl mix in would undoubtedly thin out the energy in the air, so of course there would be fellows who become irritated.

「What're you even doing, carrying a sword around like that?」

The source of the voice in this case is — Aren't you a child as well?! Well, that's what I'm led to believe judging by the slender youth's appearance. He's wearing tidy, fully intact armor, so there's a clear air of inexperience.

Because G Rank Adventurers shouldn't be able to participate, he should be F Rank or above..... But he has the appearance of someone who wouldn't even be able to beat a Goblin. His Status is a little higher than a Goblin's, but it's only a slight difference.

Maybe, rather than ranking up through combat, he did things like delivery quests and such, and was allowed to Rank up after doing nothing but baggage-carrying requests. With Sword Arts Lv1, he's by far the weakest Adventurer I've seen so far. To call upon even people like this... There really must not be enough people.

「Exterminating Goblins.」
「Hey, this is an important fight to defend Aressa. Children like you will only get in the way! Only Adventurers with ranks above F can participate anyways, so kids should just go home!」

He makes an unpleasant face as he says so. In response: Fran, who

works at her own pace, casually ignores the young man and simply stands absentmindedly.

「Hey, did you hear me?」
「？」
「Tsk. Come on, this isn't a playground for children. Go play Adventurer over there.」

Most likely, this young man is feeling anxious about the upcoming fight against the Hobgoblins. Well, there statuses will be far superior to his, no doubt. And so, after getting all worked up, his mind is in a strange place. Because of this, he's started to quarrel with someone who should be his ally.

The reactions of the Adventurers around us vary. To the scene of young people making noise, some are amused, and some are indifferent and ignore the scene. From the side, the scene of children making noise must be quite out of place.

「Nn.」
「Damn it, stop moving out of the way!」

Fran casually avoids the arms of the young man who lets out an irritated shout. Because he only seems to be getting angrier, shouldn't someone stop him? So I thought, but the surrounding Adventurers don't look like they'll step in.

No, there were some who were going to intervene with a shout, but they were stopped by the other Adventurers.

「*Oi*, leave it alone!」
「Why should I–」
「That one is–」
「The rumor is–」
「Seriously–」

It seems that the tale of the Goblin subjugation from earlier spread

throughout the Adventurers in the Guild. However, a guy who turns a deaf ear to the information circulating in the surroundings comes out. It's here, an Adventurer that will scold the young lad is here!

「Oi, brats! You've been noisy for a while now, get it?! Because you're in the way, get out of here! You can carry our luggage later!」
「I-I'm not a baggage carrier! I'm a fully fledged F Rank Adventurer!」
「As if! At best, you're an F Rank Adventurer who's fresh out of Rank G!」
「Regardless, I'm Rank F; therefor, I have the qualifications to participate!」
「Also Rank F.」
「？」

The youth, who looked down on Fran, shows a surprised look. It seems that the fact she's an official Adventurer caught him off guard.

「*Gyahahahahaha!* You? An F Rank? If a small fry like you is F Rank, then I'm an A Rank!」

It seems that this guy knows his limits enough not to say S Rank.

「Oi, oi. Are those guys seriously F Rank? Adventurers Ranks sure are easy to advance, huh…」
「Well, they're just scavengers in the end.」
「I registered just to link my experience in my last job, but it seems like I'll have an easier time advancing than I thought!」

Are these guys former mercenaries? According to what I've heard, there was a war in a neighboring country that ended earlier than expected. Because of that, mercenaries sprung up in vast quantities.

Although, looking at their Status, they don't amount to much. Even though it's like that, how can they brag so much?

「*Heheheh*. You, don't you have something good the—re?」
「Ohh? That's a pretty good sword…」
「Hand it over for a little.」

They have sharp eyes to hone in on me. Well, any points they gained were lost when they put their hand forward, though. The deduction mainly came from their lack of risk management abilities.

The young man who was involved with Fran only a moment ago felt a sudden chill and jumped back with goosebumps. It was a wise reaction. He must have sensed the bloodlust that Fran's giving off. In comparison, the mercenaries continue to reach their arms towards me with vulgar faces.

「*Nn*—」
「You guys, that's enough!」

Right before Fran makes her move, Donna steps in between her and the mercenaries… And scolds them.

「Seriously, you damn fools! Don't cause an unnecessary uproar right before we head out!」
「No, we weren't……」

As expected, they're still able to sense the overpowering sense of intimidation given off by Donna. Their faces became stiff.

「No excuses; I saw *all* of it. Sill, we need to be at our best to exterminate the Goblins! That's why, I'll overlook it this time.」

In the meantime, Fran looses interest in the men and withdraws her bloodlust before walking away. I judged that it would be better not to stand out any more than this, so I instructed her to do so. The Adventurer from before, however, makes a complaint about Fran behind us.

「*You* — Instructor Donnadorondo just came and helped you, aren't you going to give your thanks?!」

「*Gahahaha!* That's only natural, seeing that the young lady isn't the one I helped!」
「*Ha?*」
「I couldn't have our fighting potential decreased right before we left, after all.」
「 ??? 」

Only Donna knows just how dangerous Fran is. Still, even Fran knows how bad it would be to reduce our forces right before the battle in the heat of the moment. Probably. Well, even if she went overboard, we'd be able to work it out with recovery magic one way or another.

『There might be a couple of aftereffects, though…』
「?」
『It's nothing. Let's do our best exterminating Goblins as usual.』
「Nn. Of course.」

---

[1] Definitely a reference to Lonberk from Dragon Quest. I know, because the censor moves in the next line, revealing the previously-missing character to finish off the name. (ロンベ〇ク & ロン〇ルク = ロンベルク)

Chapter 34: Goblin Subjugation – Outbreak of war

mllhild:
Ensig: Say whatever you want to say, m8.
Mllhild: m8 = meat? wasn't this a name for sex slaves? Ah, it means mate! Yep, my brain is rotten. Anyway, I'm the new sla- translator. Please treat me kindly.

Ensig:
Who the hell made me wait so long for a single chapter? Don't they know how antsy I got for this? I binge-ate at least 3 bowls of rice while waiting! Find the one responsible for the long wait and set their hair on fi–

… Oh wait. I was the one responsible for the wait. Tehepero.

Joking aside, the wait should have been expected, right? I'm selfish, after all! Anyways, because I've been feeling unmotivated to Translate as of late, I'll simply be Editing chapters from now on (when I have time, of course — yes: I refuse to commit, no: I'm not ashamed); this chapter's translation is thanks to mllhild.

※※※

Author's Note:
Ranked 6 in the daily ranking?
When I looked a second time, I found that it was 5th.
Yesterday I said to have my aim at around the 50th, but it seems that it was already achieved.

Furthermore, Bookmarks have exceeded 1,000.
I don't even know what's going on…

I'm tearing up, seriously!

Thank you!

「*It's a Goblin!*」

The lookout raised a shout.

Using the materials we brought, we should have been in the middle of building a rudimentary base in front of the dungeon right now.

However, from the entrance of the dungeon a Goblin seemed to appear. We had taken out the Goblin patrols in the vicinity to prevent a sudden rush, but it seems we fell behind schedule because of it.

「Teacher, there.」
『Oi, construction of the base isn't even finished yet. *Ah*... It's turned into a complete melee, huh...』

The Adventures and Hobgoblins were fighting all jumbled together. In such a state, throwing large area fire spells into the mix was out of the question. The Adventurers on the other side seemed to be fighting with Donna as their center.

「I'm going.」
『Ok. But before storming the dungeon, we should thin out the ones outside. If the Adventures got annihilated I wouldn't be able to sleep easy.』
「Teacher doesn't sleep.」
『It's a metaphor, a metaphor!』

Fran unsheathed me and started running. First, she headed to the ones fallen into crisis: the novices. Without stopping her run, she mowed down her opponents happily. As for surprise attacks from the rear, they only numbered 1.

「Weak.」

『Even if it's a Hobgoblin, by itself, it isn't that strong.』

For now, the status of the specimens that we defeated were like this:

Race : Hobgoblin Swordsman : Evil Beast : Demonic Beast Lv.8

HP: 69 MP: 38 STR: 34 END: 33 AGI: 25 DEX: 23 INT: 19 WIS: 19

Skills:
Coercion : Lv1, Evasion : Lv1, Sword Techniques : Lv1, Sword Arts : Lv3, I

They're almost the same as a Goblin King, but with a slightly weaker status. As for skills, the experience-rich Kings have more versatile ones, but these Hobgoblins have the Cooperation skill. Fighting a large group would be troublesome indeed.

The rubbish mercenaries that picked a quarrel with Fran before the departure were already lying dead on the ground as proof of this. Being eager for achievements, they seem have gone too far ahead, granting themselves wounds that cover their entire bodies. Even at a glance, it's obvious that they can't be saved. Against foes with Cooperation, even if they're small fry, plunging into them head-first would obviously end like that.

Fran doesn't seem to have noticed, or, if they were *truly* unfortunate, she may have simply forgotten about them already.

「*Ha—!*」
『It's an all you can eat!』

While Fran swung me, I fired invisible attacks like Aura・Blade into the surroundings, cutting down Hobgoblins while trying not to attract attention to myself.

「T-Thank you!」
「Seriously, this cute little girl is ——」
「*Eh?* Who ——」

「No way ——!」

Oh, the lad from before is still here. Without overdoing it, he's been fighting steadily. Now, while being too surprised at Fran's figure, he fell for a moment and got himself into a pinch. He was saved by a senior, though.

The other C and D rank Adventurers are frantically holding the entrance of the cave, so Adventurers with insufficient strength are closer to the base. Therefore, the Hobgoblins attention was naturally directed at the peerless being: Fran.

「Big catch.」
『They keep on coming from the sides, huh. It's good that we're alleviating the strain on the other Adventurers, but…』

As for myself, I have to restrain from absorbing magic stones here. If it becomes known that the magic stones from the Hobgoblins that Fran defeated are all missing, various troubles might occur.

Therefore, I'm verifying their Skills one by one with Appraisal, and only absorbing the magic stones from Hobgoblins that have Skills I absolutely want.

『Now it should be fine, right? Quickly, let's break into the dungeon.』
「Nn.」

If it's inside the dungeon, then I can absorb magic stones without minding the people around us; I can just hide the evidence by stowing away the enemies' corpses.

Fran moves towards the dungeon. At the entrance, people and Goblins are fighting, all tightly packed together.

「According to reports: Cave Type.」

Dungeons have various categories, including Labyrinth Type, Cave

Type and Nature Type. Cave Type is often seen in recently-created dungeons. Traps are almost nonexistent, but in exchange there seem to be many that have complex structures — almost resembling an ant nest.

According to the Conjurers who used disposable Familiars to scout, there were nothing resembling traps on the inside. For the large amounts of goblins coming and going traps would be a hindrance after all.

There was no talk about any kind of special rooms, either. About these 'special rooms', they're essentially areas with peculiar effects such as sealing Transfer, sealing Recovery, or absorbing Magical Power. If they're entered without noticing the difference between them an normal rooms, there's a high risk of total annihilation. The ones that seemed to have ways to detect the difference concluded that there weren't any such places here.

For us, this was good news. Without having to mind traps of any sort, being able to focus purely on battle is great.

『Forward!』
「Nn.」
『*Yahoo—!*』

Fran crossed over the wall established at the cave entrance by the Adventurers by running through the air. Donna, who saw the spectacle, was astonished. With round eyes he looked up to her. *Oioi*, if Fran had a skirt on then he'd be guilty, right?

「That was... Aerial Jump?! Isn't that supposed to be a Sky Knight's unique skill?!」

Ha? Is this... Slightly bad?

『Sky Knights? Judging from the name, it gives the impression of a fairly high ranked job...』

Sky Knight, huh… How highly ranked is that occupation, I wonder. Depending on the answer, the use of Aerial Jump might be barred in front of others. At any rate, it's related to the "sky[1]". Seems strong.

「Teacher, too late.」
『*Mu*…… Is that so?』

Well, Fran has a point there… Or rather, from now on such things will happen from time to time, so hiding everything might be meaningless in the end. If that's the case, maybe it's better to have accidentally used it while becoming serious.

「Aside from that: Goblins.」
『Oops, that's right.』
「Teacher uses magic. After landing, I'll finish them.」
『Understood.』

Fran uses Floating, ascending even higher. Matching that, I invoked Tri・Explosion.

DOdoDOon!

The crowd of Hobgoblins in the vicinity of the entrance were blown away all at once. The explosion ended up creating a smoke screen in front of Donna, but even with that, with Hobgoblins as his opponents, he has the power to kill them with a single strike. Fran landed and without a moment's delay attacked the routed enemies.

「Sonic・Wave!」

Lv5 Sword Art: Sonic Wave. It's an art that releases a shockwave, so it was a good choice for knocking down the clustered group of Hobgoblins.

「Chance.」

With the number of Goblins at the cave entrance diminished, Fran rushed in with a **woosh**.

「W-wait! Only Rank D Adventurers and above should be entering the dungeon!」

We knew that, of course. However, in order to have no one hinder us from entering despite that, we went and acted before they could give out any orders. Donna and the others were still fighting against the Hobgoblins, after all.

「Shit–! Go, chase after the little miss!」
「Ah yer right. Normally it's 'ye reap what ya sow', but lettin' such a tiny girl die just don't sit right.」
「You idiot! It's got nothing to do with that!」
「*Ha*?」
「If left alone, that little miss will take all the sweet spots!」
「No way, that little girl will?」
「That Aerial Jump from before, and even the Magic she just cast…! When you're thinking about that little miss, ignore her outward appearance — think of her as a remarkably skilled Adventurer wearing the skin of a child[2]!」

In regards to the raw materials after the fight's been all mopped up, the Guild splits them equally among all of the Adventurers involved (after taking a cut for itself, of course). However, you're permitted to keep the loot for yourself if you defeat something alone, and place the corpse inside of your item bag.

In other words, the more you defeat, the more you earn. That seems to be a measure put in place to increase the motivation of the Adventurers, but depending on the situation I'd think that it could cause quarrels and reckless delving… Like how we delved into the Dungeon at our own convenience.

「Teacher.」
『This is…… A clump of experience points!』

Within the dungeon, the Hobgoblins are packed like sardines.

「Please.」
『*Ou*! Flare・Blast!』

Lv1 Blaze Magic: Flare・Blast. It's a magic where a wave of heat is formed by converging flames. Its range isn't particularly wide, but it's far more powerful than Fire Magic.

KyUUUin――BoBoOn!****

The heat ray pierced the goblins, and the shock wave mowed down any of the remaining ones. When firing this magic in a narrow space like a cave, its power is tremendous.

Once again, Fran plunged forward.

『We bought a Transfer Feather using the money we had on-hand, so let's go as far as we can!』

---

[1] 'Sky' can also mean 'Heaven'. (天)
[2] This is essentially the expression 'a wolf in sheep's clothing' with 'child' instead of 'wolf'. In Japanese 'clothing' is usually subbed out with 'skin', too.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 35: Goblin Subjugation – Storming in

Mllhild:
To the one below: Just write more chapters and shut up.

※※※

Author's Note:
No way, ranked 1st in the daily ranking?
Every time I said it, it has a certain feeling to it, but this is also thanks to the help of everyone!
For the second consecutive day, I cried.

Also thanks for the many impressions/thoughts.
Steadily, it's getting harder and harder to reply. Therefore, I'm incredibly sorry, but I'll have put a stop to answering questions and such. Please consider that if I did, it would cut into the time I have to write. I'm still looking over all of the comments, so please rest assured that I'm paying attention.

Next, thank you very much for pointing out the misspellings/typos.
I was shocked at how insufficient my own check had been.
The fact is that I thought I had decreased the errors as much as possible, and yet…
From here on also, please point out and I will revise every such part, so please, if you could not abandon me I would be happy.

「***Haaa!***」
「*Gukya*–!」
『Fire・Javelin!』

I scatter spells with short chanting times, shaving down the numbers of goblins. Fran cleans up the approaching goblins missed

by my barrage. Together, we are cooperating well.

We didn't end up stowing away *all* the corpses, either. If we didn't leave behind a share for the guys coming in later, it would only incur more enmity than necessary. Moreover, the limit of our storing space isn't yet grasped. If the time came that we couldn't store any more, it would be quite unpleasant. However, all corpses whose magic stones I absorbed, we made sure to collect.

I use Appraisal during combat, checking our opponent's statuses and briefly identifying their skills. If I find one with anything useful, then their magic stone is cut through, as to absorb it before its corpse is stowed away. The bodies are stored to destroy the evidence. Once the process is finished, I put Appraisal back to work on those that aren't cut down yet.

Repeating the above over and over again, I've become strangely adept at using Thought Division. Now, casting two spells with large chants at once is possible. Since spell chants need considerable concentration, I had thought that even with Thought Division, 2 simultaneous arias would be impossible, and yet…

As expected, hard-to-use skills need practice to fully master them, or else their true potential can't be displayed.

『*Hahahaha*, Fire･Javelin x2!』

Nearly 20 flame lances pour down on the Hobgoblin crowd at my shout.

「Teacher: amazing.」
『Before long, Fran will be able to do this as well!』
「Gives headache. *Ki—n*[1]…」
『Well, that's a feeling I don't know, so~』

Thanks to the fact that I don't have a brain, I don't get things like headaches. It's likely because of that that I have a higher

compatibility with Thought Division, too. There's also the possibility that I'm having an easier time because I have the Sorcery skill.

「While fighting: aiming for lower grade spell arias.」
『My next target is chanting different spells simultaneously.』
「Do your best.」
『*Ou*. Leave it to me.』

Fortunately, we don't have to worry about running out of sparring partners here.

Just like that, with Fran continuing to be peerless, we pushed deeper into the dungeon.

Just in case, I had used Echolocation to investigate the topography of the cave, but at Lv.1 no detailed information could be gained. Given that, Presence, Vibration and Heat Perception are being used to head towards areas with a high number of Hobgoblins.

「Teacher, found stairs.」
『So it had a second floor…』

The second floor seems to be just like the first. Maybe it was made simply because the density of Hobgoblins increased?

Well, either way, it's good for me. I'll be able to gather even more Skills, after all.

「Teacher, there.」
『Oh, that's… A treasure chest!』

At a dead end, an enshrined chest stands alone. It's made out of old looking wood, and is around the size of a microwave. Its metal fittings are covered in rust, giving it a certain charm.

『Hm, hm! This is the ultimate charm of dungeons! Right!』
「Teacher occasionally becomes like this.」
『*Hahaha*! So, what now? Open it? How do we unlock it?』

「Possibly a trap.」
『*Hmm*. That's right』

Well, in my case that's no problem. If I use Telekinesis, then it can be opened from a remote location.

『Fran, take some distance.』
「Nn.」
『Now, let's open it!』

GiGii……* *Hyun!

From inside the treasure chest, a single arrow flies out. If someone opened it by hand, the arrow would have passed right through the middle of their head.

『*So, it was an arrow trap.*』
「*Cliché.*」
『*Now then, shall we see what's inside?*』
「*Excited.*」

Inside of the chest was… A small black stone.

The result of Appraisal was that it's a『Pocket Heating Stone』. It's a body-warmer type magical tool that seems to emit a scarce amount of heat when it's charged with magical power.

In town, it would probably go for around 1,000 Gorudo. Maybe a freshly made dungeon only has things like this?

「*Dull.*」

With a flop, Fran's cat ears hung flat. Truly, a disappointment.

『*For gold and silver treasures or strong magic items, it seems that we'll have to wait until a large dungeon*』
「*Nn. At least: experience earned.*」
『*That's the spirit! Let's keep going!*』

Afterwards, as if to release her disappointment, Fran went into an even more peerless state against the Hobgoblins. Before I noticed it, it reached the point that Hobgoblins started to flee as soon as they saw Fran's small figure. Maybe information about her spread? Well, even so, Fran chased the fleeing Hobgoblins and finished them with a single strike to their backs.

The King and Queen also ended up being easily hunted down. Even if they're said to be somewhat strong, in the end they're only Hobgoblins. With this, is the commission considered complete? The cave keeps on going, though…

『*Shouldn't the end be around here?*』
「*More ahead.*」
『*Could the Dungeon Master be ahead…?*』
「*Going while possible.*」
『*Alright, let's keep going!*』

Like that, we continued pushing further into the second floor until we discovered a gate.

「*Big door.*」
『*Is it a boss at last? Just in case, let's ready the Feather of Return.*』
「*Nn.*」

Gigigiii…

Using my Telekinesis to push open the gate, the door slowly opens while making a creaking sound. Beyond it is a somewhat wide room, and inside is… Nothing? No, there're tiny presences of demonic beasts. Maybe they're Insect types?

『*Don't lose focus, get it?*』
「*Of course.*」

Batan!

Ooh! Suddenly the gate closed. Maybe it's one of those. 'A door that

won't open back up until you defeat the boss' type of trap.

『But weren't we told that there weren't any traps?』
「Imprisoned?」
『Fran, calm down.』
「It's alight. Just need to defeat everything. Nothing changed. No problem.」

Right, Fran has nerves of steel after all.

****BuBuBuBuBuuu****

「?」
『Seems that they're coming.』

Gushing into the room, insect type demonic beasts with green carapaces appeared. Sprouting horns, they looked like softball-sized ladybugs. However, on the other side, a Giant Isopod-looking insect appears. Extremely disgusting.

Race: Army Beetle Leader : Calamity insect : Demonic beast Lv5

HP: 8 MP: 20 STR: 4 END: 3 AGI: 22 DEX: 11 INT: 5 MGC: 12

Skills:
Wind Magic Lv.1, Summon Kin Lv.5, Leadership Lv.1, Cooperation Lv.1

Race: Army Beetle : Calamity insect : Demonic beast Lv2

HP: 6 MP: 10 STR: 3 END: 3 AGI: 20 DEX: 10 INT: 2 MGC: 4

Skills:
Hardening Lv.1, Acid Fang

Race: Army Beetle Medic : Calamity insect : Demonic beast Lv4

HP: 10 MP: 15 STR: 1 END: 7 AGI: 20 DEX: 10 INT: 4 MGC: 8

<u>Skills</u>:
Recovery Magic Lv.2, Acid Fang

Race: Army Beetle Shooter : Calamity insect : Demonic beast Lv4

HP: 3 MP: 18 STR: 2 END: 2 AGI: 20 DEX: 10 INT: 3 MGC: 10

<u>Skills</u>:
Wind Magic Lv.3, Acid Fang

They're small fry, but their number is no joke: they easily surpass 100. Not only that, the leader has Summon Kin. If it's not immediately destroyed, it'll have a snowballing effect.

「*Interesting.*」

It seems Fran is already firmly walking the path of a battle junkie. Thrusting herself into the army of disgusting insects, she joyfully started to fight. As for me, I keep using Telekinesis to seal the movement of the insects as assistance.

If they're this small, even Telekinesis at its lowest output could prevent their movement. When the opponents are larger, it's more efficient to just throw the usual spells, but…

「*Sh!* ***Haaa****!*」

After stopping their movements, Fran pierces their magic stones. For once, an unusual demonic beast has appeared, so we've left behind about half of the materials to be collected.

The most troublesome ones are the Shooter's Wind Magic, but its power is exceedingly weak. On top of that, their MP is low, so they run out after shooting only a couple of times. Honestly, it's nothing more than a distraction in the end.

The Leaders keeps summoning subordinates one after the other,

but that's more of a reward rather than a punishment. The magic stones just keep piling up.

30 minutes later, on the other side of the gate, the presences of several people appeared.

「*Shit! It won't open!*」

Donna and the others seem to have arrived.

『*It can't be helped. Let's end this.*』
「*Bonus stage……*」
『*Now, now. I feel the same, but…*』
「*Nn……*」

That marked the beginning of the extermination. In rapid succession, Fire Magic and wide ranged Sword Techniques were released one after another. It was finished in no time at all. Not even lasting 5 minutes, the ~200 remaining bugs were obliterated.

Before anyone noticed, my Wind Magic had risen to Lv.7. That's just how many magic stones were absorbed.

Gashan

『*Huh? That side opened?*』

The gate that Donna's group was intensely striking against remained shut just like before. Instead, a gate hidden in the wall of the opposing side opened.

「*Amazingly strong magical power.*」
『*This strength of magical power… It must be equal to a C rank demonic beast — no, even higher.*』

From the opponents I've come across until now, the one with the strongest magical power was the gluttonous Slime Lord. The magical power coming from beyond the gate, however, exceeds it.

『No way… For a recently created dungeon to have a being with such high magical power…』
「Itching to fight.」
『Wait, this time the enemy is really dangerous. We have to prepare properly.』

Antideath , status raising series, regeneration, invalidation of status abnormalities at fixed intervals and so on. Having put on as many buffs as possible, we enter the room.

---

[1] Not sure what this sound effect is for, but I'm thinking that it has something to do with the ringing one would hear when experiencing a headache.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 36: Goblin Subjugation – Demon

Ensig:
'... Why am I editing stuff like this at 3:00AM? I edited the previous chapter a couple hours ago, so can't I just go to sleep instead?'
– Thoughts I had after concluding my editing

※※※

What lay beyond the gate was completely different than the cave we were in up until now. When we entered, we were surrounded by walls made of stone bricks; it was what would be called 'an unnatural room'.

「Yo, yo! Our first guest! Welcome!」

Uun, a character fitting the title of an evil older brother floats in the air. His skin is black like tar, two bat-like wings sprout from his back, and horns sit atop its head. Truly, it was an appearance filled with the air of intimidation. It's just... His delinquent-like behaviour spoils it all. Its scariness is cut by half...

Well, let's use Appraisal.

Race: Demon : Fiend : Demonic Beast Lv.30

HP: 1900 MP: 2409 STR: 720 END: 798 AGI: 775 DEX: 658 INT: 882

Skills:
Digging Lv.3, Darkness Magic Lv.4, Coercion Lv.4, Transportation Lv.2,

Extra Skills:
Skill Taker Lv.6

Titles:
Demon Count[M1]

Equipment:
Demonic Shadow-Steel Longsword

Explanation: Only summoned by Dungeon Masters, this being is native t

Magic Stone Location: Heart

『A Demon, huh…』

It's too strong. Its Status exceeds 1000. It's the first time I've seen something like this.

Darkness Magic:
The superior version of Dark Magic. It rules over darkness, shadow, pois

Panic:
Causes the abnormal mental state <Panic> to those who are subject to its

Magic Barrier: By consuming magical power, a barrier resistant to both p

Skill Taker:
After meeting certain conditions, this skill allows the user to steal skills fr

Uwa, his skills are also full of troublesome ones.

『Fran, it's a terrible opponent. If you lose focus it'll be an instant death!』
「Nn!」

Having absorbed magical power from the goblins and army beetles, my MP is almost full. My skills and spells can be used as much as desired, and yet… Our victory is far from assured against the opponent in front of us. It's overwhelming to that extent. As to be usable at any moment, I have the Feather of Return prepared at all times.

「*Hah!* Quite determined, aint'cha? Good! Even if I'm fightin' a brat

I won't show mercy, got it?! You came here to clear the dungeon, after all!」
「Hey, Demon! What the hell are you doing?! Quickly, dispose of that... That *thing*!」

Hm? Looking closer, on the other side of the room is a Goblin. Only... It's different from normal goblins. It's speaking words fluently, too.

Race: Rare Goblin : Evil Beast : Demonic Beast : Dungeon Master Lv.11

HP: 25 MP: 131 STR: 12 END: 12 AGI: 13 DEX: 7 INT: 44 MGC: 13

Skills:
Digging Lv.2, Summon Kin Lv.5, Club Arts Lv.2, Talk from the Heart[E1]

Equipment:
Evergreen Oak Club, Leather robe, Substitute Bracelet

It's small fry-ish, but it certainly seems to be the dungeon master. Then, that thing shining in the cavity of the wall is the dungeon core? Which makes this the deepest part of the dungeon?

Well, in the end it's just a small fry. Did this fellow really enslave a demon?

Goblins and Beetles I can understand. They're adequate subordinates for such a weakling... But isn't this demon far too big a jump? Maybe it's because of a special ability given to dungeon masters? If it had a specific ability to enslave demons, that would be interesting. Still, I'm not able to identify a skill which is capable of that.

Another regrettable thing, it doesn't seem to have any skills to manipulate the dungeon. Most likely, the dungeon is changed through the dungeon core. That'd have to be it, given that there aren't any related skills belonging to the so-called dungeon master.

「*Shut it!* I'll properly get rid a' the intruders so just simmer down!」
「Damn it...! I invested all the GP I had into the Monster Lottery, drawing an extremely rare, supremely ranked Demon and yet...! Why won't it listen to my orders?! *Rrrgh*... and even in spite of being a skill-user type, its eager to fight head-on!」

Wah, that's one unbelievable exposition-speech... But thanks to it, all has become clear. As for the Goblin's question, the demon has the Control Immunity skill, and so it doesn't seem to accept the dungeon master's control.

「How could someone have reached all the way here...! What about my handpicked elites?!」
「Weren't they done in? They were only goblins, after all.」
「By such inferior creatures as humans, there is no way that my army corps of goblins, the supreme creatures, could be defeated!」
「Yes, yes. You're right~」
「Regardless, I *order* you to crush that guy!」
「I'd do that even without your order, y'know? They seem t' be pretty tough.」

Saying so, the demon unsheathed his sword.

「Since this guy's bein' noisy... Let's go?」

Like that, the demon closed in with a thrust. In spite of his magic skills being higher, he himself came in for close-quarter combat. What an ultra-belligerent guy! Looks like he would get along well with Fran.

「***Oraa!***」
「***Haa!***」

Giiin! Gakii!

「*Haha*! You've got a good sword t' be able to exchange blows with this one!」

Name：Demonic Shadow-Steel Longsword

ATK: 561 + 450　MP: 56　Durability: 1000

Magical Power Conductivity・C+[M2]

Skills:
Return to the Shadows

The magical power conductivity is high. It seems like it's already clad in magical power, and its ATK surpasses 1,000. Furthermore, due to the skill Return to the Shadows, even if it's thrown it'll return to the demon's hand.

On this side, we expended about 500 MP to raise my ATK[M3]. Like that, we could exchange blows but…

「*Tsk*, so your sword's superior, huh? Then, how 'bout this?!」
「? — Ku…!」

Just when he disappeared from sight, the bastard suddenly appeared from behind.

Not good! Fran's left arm was completely severed. Large quantities of blood have started gushing out, and her the HP just keeps decreasing.

『What happened…?!』

With Telekinesis, I recovered Frans left arm and pressed the two cross-sections together. Then, in a hurry, I chanted Greater・Heal. With that, the small amount of flesh lost regrows — it's Lv.1 Healing Magic after all. Something like rejoining a lost limb is easy.[M4]

「*Oh?* So you even have the Telekinesis skill? And usin' that level of Recovery Magic, too! Are you perhaps a Magic Swordsman?」

The demon was laughing, but on this side it was no laughing matter.

『That move just now… What was that?』

Once again, the demon's figure suddenly vanishes. Then, not a moment later, it attacks from the rear.

『Fran! Are you alright?!』
「Al…right.」
「***Oraora!***」
「*Nn!*」
「So, you can already receive it! You've got some good reflexes!」

No matter how you look at it, he seems to simply vanish. Teleportation? But he shouldn't have a skill capable of such a thing. Then, perhaps magic? Dark Magic, or maybe Darkness Magic…?

「***Ora!***」
「*Ha!*」

As expected, that's it. Just now, when the demon transferred, magical power leaked out of his shadow. Then, he reappeared from Fran's shadow. It's a transfer magic that utilizes shadows.

If the trick is known, then dealing with it is possible. We're able to properly grasp the moment before he reappears now as proof.

「*Hyahaa*– **Ga-!**」
「Too cocky!」
「*Kahaha*, that's the way to go! You've already figured out the trick, huh?」

Tsk. To think he had this much lee-way. That strike that cut open his flank had Vibration Fang and Demonic Poison Fang added, but even with those…

「*Ah*? Poison? To poison me with something surpassing my Abnormal Status Resistance… Yeah, that's the way!」

Yes, yes. Freaking battle junkie!

Demonic Poison. It falls short of the effects of Sovereign Poison and Deadly Poison, but it should still do more than an ordinary poison. And yet, because of this guy's Automatic Recovery skill[E2], its effects are essentially nonexistent.

『Fran, let's aim for his vitals with a direct attack.』
「Nn.」

Our advantages in this fight are that the enemy is still taking us lightly, and that my existence has still gone unnoticed.

I haven't been attacking openly, after all. Secretly, I've kept on assisting while keeping the Feather of Return ready for us to escape at all times.

「***Haaaaa!***」
「***Hyahaha!***」

Once again the furious sword fight continues.

pka—!

Then, during the fight, something glittered around the two. Immediately following, from inside of the light, Hobgoblins emerged. How many? 4.

「***GO***, servants of mine! Kill the intruder!」

It was the dungeon masters doing. Summoning Hobgoblins here is… More than out of place, I can only say it's astounding.

As should be expected, Fran and the Demon's fight is immensely dangerous, and incredibly fast-paced. The Hobgoblins could only stand there, completely unable to interfere.

「What are you doing, quickly, get in there!」

On the dungeon master's command, a Hobgoblin resolved itself and approached the circle of combat…

「Get lost!」

And was immediately bisected by the demon's sword. At the same time, one more was slain by Fran.

「W-What are you doing?! They're allies!」
「Such shitty small fry'd do nothin' but get in the way! Just when it got good, too– vanish!」

Throwing a black ball of light, the demon blew away the remaining, pitiful Hobgoblins and sent them to heaven.

Angry and humiliated, the dungeon master quietly trembled where he stood. Looking at him, one could even pity him a little. Unrelated to such a miserable dungeon master, Fran's battle was getting more furious by the second.

Inside of the stone hall, only the sound of swords clashing could be heard.

「*Hah*, this is ***fun***! *Oi*! Still, goin' like this it's clear — yeah, crystal clear!」

Shouting so, the demon repelled me greatly before taking a small distance away from Fran.

Just what is he planning?

「Now, it's time to settle this! First, I'll be taking your combat power!」
「?」
『Crap, it's his Extra Skill!』
「*Hyahahaha*! Eat this! ***Skill Taker!***」

[M1] It's '悪魔伯爵' (Demon Count/Earl), but my understanding of the hierarchy is King→Duke→Earl→Count→Baron→Knight, so I'm going with Count (seeing as the demon doesn't have the behavior fitting for a high-noble type demon)

[E1] It's 心話 here, which is literally 'Heart Talk'. Searching it up, I found that it's something akin to a heart-to-heart... I think. If anyone has a better suggestion, feel free.

[M2] E was 5%, C- was 70%, A was 200%, so a C+ should be around 100%. The demon put in 450 MP or 15-20% of his total MP, in other words.

[M3] He should be around 1400 ATK.

[M4] Healing M. Lv.1 derives from Recovery M. Lv10, so its the superior version. For all those like me having a hard time remembering it.

[E2] The Demon doesn't have any sort of HP recovery Skill, but this is what Shisho says, so... **shrug** (奴の持つ自動回復スキルのせいで)

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 37: Goblin Subjugation – Conclusion

「Eat this! ***Skill Taker!***」

The demon shouted this while pushing his hand forward.

『*Ku-!* He got us!』

Just like the name implies, it's a skill to steal an opponent's skill. The demon hadn't used it at all during the fight, so I had come to the conclusion that it had some sort of difficult condition to invoke — like 'must be touching the opponent' or 'must invoke over a long period of time'! But in the end, it's merely shouting and pointing!

For it to be feasible to invoke it with just that…! With a shout brimming with confidence to that degree, it can only be assumed that the invocation condition was fulfilled.

He said that he would steal Fran's combat power, so did he take Sword Arts and Sword Techniques? Just when I had raised those skills with great troubles…! Having to raise them a second time is… — No, rather than that, if Swords Techniques is taken right now, our death is almost assured!

『*Tsk*, depending on the case, we'll have to use the Feather of Return!』
「Nn!」
「…」

The demon, still standing with his hand outstretched, didn't move. Fran also didn't look as though anything happened.

… Huh?

『…… Fran, are you alright?』

「?」
「*Tsk!* It failed, huh!」

Lucky. Somehow it seems to have failed. So maybe its success isn't always certain?

Well, our situation is a bit unique, too. The skills Fran's using aren't her own, they're mine. In other words, they're the 'equipped weapon's' special-ability category Skills. Even if a plundering-series skill is directed at Fran, it's possible that the Skills won't be stolen from her equipment.

「This damn– *Rrrg!* Can't do anything about it if it didn't work. In that case, eat this! **Darkness・Vortex!**」

Looking angry, the demon fired off Darkness Magic. It's a huge vortex of darkness that shaves off the ground like a drill while approaching Fran.

So, he's started using spells... Looking at his Status, he truly seems like a long distance bombardment type.

「*Ha—!*」

And yet, it just can't hit Fran.

「*Oi!* Once more!」
「Ho—」
「*Tsk!*」

Even if its attack power is high, his attacks are too monotonous. He's just like the Fran from a short time ago: undoubtedly strong, but with little combat experience. Well, he *has* only just been created by the dungeon master.

「Dark・Spear!」
『Fire・Wall!』
「Darkness・Blaster!」

「Naive.」
「***RRrrrg!*** Stop movin' around!」

It's Darkness Magic, so it should really have a bunch of diabolical spells attacking the opponent's weak points… But this is several times more detestable. They're nothing but one-hit kill spells.

In this match, Fran is at a disadvantage. After all, the amount of brute strength between the two is too big. Our attacks can't attain a decisive blow, while this guy's all bring certain death.

Gradually, the times that Fran speaks decrease. It seems our leeway is being lost. Should we flee now?

It's just… We still haven't raised any considerable accomplishments. By running wild in the Dungeon, we managed to cut down the number of goblins. Because of that, I think the objective of preventing them from going towards the town has been achieved… But originally, that would have been done by the C and D rank Adventurers.

And so, that brings us to this demon. If only something could be done about this guy, it'd be the same as capturing this dungeon. Even if it's been decided that we'll escape, for Donna's group who will be fighting this guy later, I want to leave a bit more damage on this guy.

「Black・Bomb!」
「Mu…」
「***Uwaa!***」

The demon, after losing its temper, started scattering a bunch of wide-range spells. This is bad. In risk of being swallowed up, even the dungeon master is raising screams. Thankfully, we were saved by the narrow room. Had it been a bigger space, we might have been annihilated by a more extensive spell. In here, however, the dungeon master would be dragged into it.

『No, wait!』

I might have stumbled upon a good idea.

『He's a demonic beast of the dungeon.』

I recall Donna's explanation. He had explained a couple of things before the departure, but in summary it was stuff along the lines of 'the dungeon core can be reused, so don't destroy it'. At that time, he *also* gave a rough explanation of the core and its master.

The dungeon's nucleus is the dungeon core. If it's destroyed, the dungeon dies. Any created monsters, alongside the dungeon master, are destroyed in that case. The core is protected by a high density barrier so that half-hearted attacks won't be able to destroy it, *but*...

Connected to the dungeon core is the dungeon master. If the master dies, the core supposedly becomes dormant.

More important than that, however, is that if the dungeon master gets annihilated, all dungeon monsters bite the dust — just like when the core is destroyed.

In other words...

『If that goblin gets defeated, the demon also vanishes!』
「—— Fire・Arrow」
「Ah— b-bastard! That's cowardly!」

Seeing the spell fired by Fran, the demon performed a transfer in a state of panic, protecting the Goblin. As expected, my guess was right on the mark.

The dungeon master has a Scapegoat Bracelet equipped, but in the current situation, it'd use its only revival after an instant death. After that, only the worst course of events would await, so this guy can't afford to *not* protect the dungeon master. Even though he isn't bound by any sort of contract, it doesn't mean that he's

disconnected from the reality that he is, in the end, a ‘dungeon monster’.

「**niyari**[M1]」
「This brat– don’t get conceited!」
『Fire・Javelin』
「Seriously? With no chant?!」

Nope, it’s me using stealthily magic.

「Fire・Arrow!」
『Tri・Explosion!』
「Fire・Arrow!」
『Fire・Blast!』

Bon, BAN, DogOOn!*

Firing nonstop spells, the demon is completely engulfed.

「***Ku—!***」
「*Hiiiiiii!*」

If it’s only being grazed by the explosive flames, it’s hard for the dungeon master to die. As long as the demon bastard doesn’t move, we’re at a standstill.

「You idiot! It’s ‘cause of this that I said t’ make my combat area in the room *before* this one!」
「B…*B-B*…***B-BE QUIET!*** If you didn’t stay here, then this room’s defensive combat power is lost!」

This dungeon master is an idiot beyond saving.

Bit by bit the demon’s HP decreases, but this guy’s magic defense is higher than expected… Like this, our side will run out of magical power first.

『Fran, change of plans.』

「Understood.」

I continue to cast magic non-stop with double chanting while Fran chants the Wind Magic spell she learned just now.

Lv.4 Wind magic: Sonic Shooter. In a nutshell, it's a spell to increase the speed of a thrown object using the power of the wind. Once it's used, manipulating the object's trajectory is possible to a certain extent.

「Ready.」
『*Mh*, I'm ready any time.』
「*Ha—!*」
『*Hyaa—!*』

I'm sent flying on a trajectory circumventing the demon, approaching the Goblin.

「What kind of skillful action is—! Wind magic? Even with that, I won't let ya!」

Because of the spells coming from Fran, the demon can't move imprudently. Therefore, he swung his right arm widely, wanting to knock me down. Even when coming at high speeds, the demon seems to be able to perfectly see me, huh…

The demon's fist draws near, matched up perfectly ——— and misses.

「*Wha—?!* ***Gaha!!***」

At the last moment, I altered my trajectory with Wind magic and released my amassed telekinesis all in one go. It's the nostalgic Telekinesis Catapult Attack. With it, I charged towards Demon's defenseless torso.

Of course, most of our remaining magical power was transmitted into my blade. This was meant to be our final attack, so if it fails the

only remaining option is to flee via transfer.

「Im…poss…ible…!」
『I somehow made it…』

Even this demon couldn't defend against the Telekinesis Catapult given these circumstances. Piercing the demon's barrier, the tip of my blade is buried deep into its chest.

Still, it gave me a cold sweat when I found its left arm thrust between me and its body. When did it even do that?! Had I been stingy with the conducted magic power, I might have been in a tough spot to pierce that arm… It seems that I took the demon too lightly.

「N-No way… The Demon got …?」
「*UoOo……*」

I had split the magic stone perfectly in two. Now, it was being absorbed into my blade.

「***Gaaaaa———!***」

Having his magic stone completely devoured, the demon raised a dying shriek filled with agony before falling down on the spot. *Fuu*— Thank goodness. He didn't turn into something like silver dust[M2], so I got worried that he might have not been dead, but the raw materials — or rather, its corpse was properly left behind.

We won't stow it away, however. It's a shame, but I plan to pass the body of the demon to the Guild as an apology for rushing ahead. Besides, even if we collected it secretly, it would be difficult to keep hidden. The reason for that is related to the dungeon core's system.

While dormant, the core can be used (with certain limitations) by pouring magical power into it. It's limited to creating things that it formed while it was alive, but bringing forth Items and Demonic

Beasts is possible. With the magical power of humans, nothing great can be summoned, but… Even so, anyone who touches the dungeon core can see the list of things possible to be summoned. In other words, when someone reused this dungeon core, the Demon would end up listed.

Yeah. Assuming we secretly take the demons raw materials, we'll definitely be busted. Once that happens, we're assured to have a massive amount of envy and enmity aimed at us.

Therefore, we've decided to leave the body to the Guild. But first… A small disguise has to be made. With help of an explosion spell, we blow away the area around the Demon's heart, resulting in a large hole opening up in its chest.

With this, we can just say that the magic stone was smashed to pieces and vanished due of Fran's attack. The end. It should work as an excuse for why only the body remained… I hope.

We could also insist that we'd only be taking the magic stone, but that would mean that Fran's share would be too big. Doing that would definitely incur the resentment of the other Adventurers. Well, I guess there will be a lot of fellows who won't believe that we didn't take it too, but that can't really be helped. One can't give what one doesn't have.

The Demon's sword we have honorably received. If it's this, we might be able to sell it after falsifying its origin. Worst case scenario, we'll end up breaking it down and selling the materials.

Ah, while we were at it, we also finished off the dungeon master. To utilize the core, the dungeon master is said to be a hindrance after all. First, we deprived him of the Scapegoat Bracelet, then we vigorously cut him part. Scapegoat Bracelet, GET.

「Teacher.」

Fran pushed her fist into the air, making a victory pose. It was a somewhat cowardly tactic, but she looks happy having beaten a higher ranked opponent.

<Self Evolution process invoked. 40 Self Evolution Points acquired>

Alright! As one would expect from a demon's magic stone.

From the fighting until now, my magic stone value had been 2599/2800. Now, it was 3099/3600. It ended raising by 500.

『With this, various power ups are possible.』
「Nn.」

<Fran's level has risen →
<Fran's level has →
<Fran's level →
<Fran's →

Fran's level also increased 8 times! This time we obtained something similar to a victory thanks to the incompetency of the dungeon master, it was truly a godsend.

gogogo

Oh, it appears that the seal on the gates have been lifted.

「*Oooi*! Little miss, are you there?」
「I-Isn't... Isn't this a demon—?!」
「S-Seriously?!」

[M1] The hyperbole for 'broadly grinning'.
[M2]Bosses in certain games do this.

Chapter 38: Goblin Subjugation – Return

Ensig:
Mllhild says that there's a Data and Terminology chapter of some sort, so leave a comment on whether you want that translated!

※※※

Author Note:
I received many questions related to the MC's vision, so to any discrepancies on the subject, parts of the 1st and 4th chapter have been revised.
I have the privilege of doing a detailed activity report of how people took the change:

The overall evaluation surpassed 20,000 points!

The following concerns the return of us, having captured the dungeon, to the town.

In the faces of the Adventurers, profound fatigue but overall delight can be seen.

They had 10 casualties total, but for a Demonic Beast disaster of this scale, it appears fortunate to end with only this much.

For being able to quickly capture the dungeon due to us annihilating Demonic Beasts along the way, we received the gratitude of the Adventurers. You might say that not monopolizing the corpse of the demon also had a hand in our favorable reception. More precisely, that was a *huge* part of it.

It appears that a Demon's raw materials are substantially higher priced than Demonic Beasts of the same rank. It's an endemic species that doesn't exist outside of dungeons, after all.

The amount of experience gained is also remarkably different; they're said to even rival a Threat Level A Demonic Beast by themselves. Fran's level rising 8 times is understandable in that respect. Demons appear to be quite the delicious opponents… Well, on the flip side, they also come come with the large risk of us getting eaten up instead.

After leaving the Dungeon, we were scolded by Donna for having rushed forward alone. We received around 1 whole hour of preaching.

The scene with the Conqueror of the Century's End[M1] preaching to a small neko girl was beyond criminal — it was way too funny! When I laughed Fran pouted, but somehow she was able to bear with it to the end.

Also, if not for the mediation from the lad we were involved with before the departure, Donna probably would have continued for even longer. The mercenaries who picked a quarrel with Fran were dead, and the fact that he didn't end up the same as them was thanks to Fran; because of this, he came advocating in our defense.

『Those guys… They really died in the end, huh…』
（Even said in a good voice: can't deceive me.）
『*Ahaha*… As expected?』
（Teacher didn't get scolded. Unfair.）
『Now, now.』
（Only I got scolded.）
『I'm sorry.』
（Teacher. Lots of meat.）
『Understood.』
（Roasted meat.）
『Alright.』
（Steak and skewers, too.）
『Oki-doki—』

Lately, because Fran keeps eating my cuisine from Earth, I've

started thinking that she might end up becoming a glutton character. Well, if this cheers her up, then let's make as much as she wants! For having defeated a highly ranked opponent like a Demon, a celebration is necessary, after all. Eat as much of whatever you want!

But before arriving at the town, I should confirm the fruits of battle. Before ranking up it was like this:

ATK : 392 Retained MP : 1650/1650 Durability : 1450/1450

Skills:
Self Evolution <Rank 7・Magic Stone Status : 2599/2800・Memory : 62・

And now, it's like this:

Name : Teacher
Equipment Registration : Fran
Race : Intelligent Weapon

ATK : 434 Retained MP : 2050/2050 Durability : 1850/1850
Magic Conductivity・A

Skills:
Appraisal Lv.7, Appraisal Concealment, High-Speed Self-Repair, Self Ev

With each evolution, my stats become increasingly amazing. In the beginning my ATK increased no higher than 30 per rank, with my MP only advancing by 100. My Durability and MP recovery were also nonexistent. How will they end up if I rank up even further? I'm looking forward to it.

Next are the Skills that leveled up. The Hobgoblins and Army Beetles had reasonably high skill levels, so some have grown quite a bit.

Wind Magic Lv.7, Sword Techniques Lv.8, Sword Arts Lv.9, Summon Ki

As for Skills, the Hobgoblins had quite a few new ones as well.

Darkness Magic Lv.1, Bow Techniques Lv.1, Panic Lv.1, Club Arts Lv.1, So

Extra Skill:
Skill Taker Lv.1

Despite having obtained 40 Self Evolution Points, there are *way* too many things I want to do with them, so '40' ends up feeling like a small number.

I should raise Sword Arts and Sword Techniques, as well as some Magic... Since I got my hands on Darkness Reinforcement, maybe I should raise Darkness Magic? Summon Familiar also seems like it could be useful, so raising its level and seeing what happens might be a good idea. There's also the previously-abandoned Instant Regeneration and Abnormal Status Resistance. Furthermore, Skill Taker is also on the list... And because the 'transforms into a superior skill at Lv.10' might apply to it, there doesn't seem to be an end to my troubles in sight.

But, of course, I'm not the only one who gained things. Fran has reached level 25. Usually, a Demon would have granted a huge amount of experience for a *full party*, but Fran had it concentrated on her alone, so...

Name : Fran Age : 12
Race : Black Cat Beastman
Occupation : Magical Swordsman
Condition : Contracted

Status:
Level : 12→25
HP : 189→304 MP : 115→215
STR : 92→150 END : 74→129 AGI : 82→140
INT : 50→95 MGC : 62→117 DEX : 63→108

Skills:
Goblin Slayer, Mental Stability, Skinning Expert, Indomitable Resolve, D
<New> Insect Slayer, Growth Efficiency ↑, Demon Slayer

Titles:
Match for a Thousand, King of Dismantling, Master of Recovery, Goblin
<New> Insect Slayer, Big Game Devourer, Dungeon Conqueror, Demon

Insect Slayer:
A Title granted to those who exterminated no less than 300 insect type D

Effects:
Acquisition of the Skill : Insect Slayer

Big Game Devourer:
A Title granted to those who overcame an overwhelmingly difficult oppo

Effects:
HP +20, All Stats +5, Acquisition of the Skill : Growth Efficiency ↑

Dungeon Conqueror:
A Title granted to those who either killed a dungeon master, or destroyed

Effects:
Inside of Dungeons: HP & MP Recovery ↑

Demon Slayer:
A Title granted to those who have slain a demon.

Effects:
Acquisition of the Skill : Demon Slayer

> Again and again came the cheat Titles. Big Game Devourer in particular is just as powerful as Match for a Thousand. Thanks to that, Fran's status is quite something. Already, the sum of all her stats is equal to Donnadorondo's.

Fran... What a frightening child! — No, it's my fault that she's like this. Fran has ambition, so I don't think that she will get conceited, but... There *is* the possibility for her to search for even more dangerous places from now on. I have to stay focused and properly support Fran.

And so, raising Skill levels is an urgent matter.

『Hey Fran, which Skill do you want to raise?』
（Sword Arts and Sword Techniques.）
『Yes, of course.』

This time we experienced it first-hand — just how hard it is for Magic to show results on highly-ranked opponents. With a *sword* on the other hand, even in an unfavorable position a chance for a comeback exists. In fact, I can be proud of my ability to do so due to my high Magic Power Conductivity and vast MP reserves.

『Then, for now shall we raise Sword Arts and Techniques?』
「Nn.」
『Alright, done』

Expending 6 Self Evolution Points, Sword Arts and Sword Techniques have reached Lv.MAX. Furthermore, Master Sword Techniques Lv.1, Master Sword Arts Lv.1 and Sword Attribution Lv.1 were derived.

Master Sword Arts and Techniques I can understand, but 'Sword Attribution'? It seems to be a Skill to be used with Magic, allowing one to infuse a sword with a magic attribute for a fixed time, but... Well, unless we try it out, there's no way of knowing its full effects.

So, what shall we raise now? There's still Skill Taker, too.

Skill Taker : Lv.1
Allows the user to choose a single Skill with rarity ≤ Grade 1. If the chose
Cooldown : 1 day

Range : Skill Level × 1_m

Ho, skill rarity, huh… Appraisal's level isn't yet sufficient, so it doesn't show the Skill's degree of rarity.

If I used this, then even more progress in collecting skills could be made… Furthermore, if it became possible to steal an opponent's Skill, battles could become even easier. Above all, it would be possible to obtain skills which I previously couldn't get my hands on — ones from beings without magic stones… Skills from civilized races.

What to do about this… I'm already totally enthusiastic, but what about Fran?

『Say, about Skill Taker――』

With that, I explained the general stuff to Fran.

（It's good.）
『Is that so?』
（Extra Skills: definitely super strong.）
『Alright. Then, let's level it up.』

Ending up recklessly charmed by her cute words, I decide to raise it to Lv2 see what happens.

Skill Taker : Lv.2
Allows the user to choose a single Skill with rarity equal or below grade 2
Cooldown : 2 days
Range : Skill level × 1_m

What? Lv.2 and 60% chance? A-Alright, let's raise it some more!

Leveling up Extra Skills seems to cost 3 points per level, so my remaining Self Evolution Points are only 7… But I don't regret it.

Skill Taker : Lv.Max

Allows the user to choose a single Skill with rarity equal or below grade 1
Cooldown : 18 days
Range : Skill level × 1_m

Nothing that can be done about the 18 day cooldown, so we'll just have to think properly about when to use it. Well, in our case Fran and I each have a chance, so we should be able to use it a bit more carefreely. I'll definitely have to investigate what Skills would have rarity Grade 10 later.

Maybe I should raise Appraisal's level for that? If by any chance Skill Taker can steal Extra Skills and Unique skills, then it'd be unbelievably strong. To put it bluntly, it'd be a complete cheat.

I want to use it at once, but... There're only allies around us. Won't some bandits appear? Well, even after thinking that, I know that bandits that would come to take on a bunch of adventurers don't exist.

And so, without anything occurring we reached the guild.

It was in quite the festive mood when we arrived. Adventurers were rejoicing at our victory while we received the remuneration for our efforts. Everyone's face is cheerful.

「Little miss, come over here for a moment.」
「Nn.」

Led by Donna, Fran and I move towards the Guild Master's room. None of the other Adventurers are surprised. They understand that Fran contributed the most, after all.

Various rumors had gone around, but even Adventurers who doubt Fran's ability seem to have come to the understanding that her summons has to do with her involvement in the subjugation.

「*Ahh*, must be nice. It'll be a bonus for sure, right?」

「Can't be helped, it was a spectacular victory.」
「She saved my life, y'know?」
「What did she do to become so strong at that age…?」
「She's a monster I say. A monster!」
「Maybe she'll want to enter our party?」
「*Haaa… Haaa…* Fran-chan, ***CUTE!***」

The voices are split into Good Will: 5, Envy: 4, and Disgusting: 1. — Hey wait, this last guy is just plain creepy!

「Ah, Fran. I've been waiting.」
「Nn.」
「First, I'd like to express my gratitude. Thanks to you, the subjugation ended with very few casualties. For a dungeon of this degree to have a demon… If we had conquered it normally, the number of fatalities wouldn't have been a laughing matter.」

His words held a hint of gratitude, but a smile didn't cross his face. This person was different from Donna in that he doesn't let his guard down. Even now I get the feeling that he's doubting us.

「Still, stealing the march on everyone else and going out on your own is troubling. That being said, this time we escaped harm because of it, so I won't rebuke you for not complying with orders.」

It seems that after weighing various factors in the subjugation, the result ended up with us avoiding any punishment.

「As for the demon you were said to have defeated… I saw the corpse.」

Donna *would* need to show it to him, after all.

「I'll be frank. That was a Threat Level B specimen. Did you really defeat it by yourself?」
「Nn.」
「Then… If that's true, then it means your abilities are befitting of an

A rank.」

I'm pleased with the evaluation, but if our rank was suddenly changed to A and we got assigned dangerous commissions right away, I'd be troubled.

「Had luck.」
「Oh? In what way?」

For now, we decided to tell the truth.

「I see, so you aimed at the Dungeon Master to restrain him, then got him by surprise…」
「Dungeon Master: an idiot.」
「Even so, not dying instantly is still strange… Besides, about this demon's corpse…」
「?」
「The fatal attack to the heart. How many people do you think can pierce a tenacious Magic Barrier and defeat a Demon?」
「Mmh?」
「*Haa*… That's… Well, alright. Then, onto the real issue.」

As expected, he'll ask about it?

「What happened to the Demon's magic stone?」
「Annihilated.」
「… Such a creature's magic stone is tremendously useful. It's valued so highly that entire countries would desire it.」
「Nn.」
「And you truly don't have it?」
「Doesn't exist anymore.」

I've absorbed it after all.

「*Haa*… I understand. I'll believe you.」

We didn't lie, so… Perhaps we've managed to deceive him for now?

Then, the moment I became relieved:

「Wait a minute! Do you seriously plan to overlook this just like that!?」

Vigorously opening the door with a **BAAN**, somebody barged into the room.

[M1] Conqueror of the Century's End.

[E1] Previously 'Talk from the Heart'.

※※※

Mllhild:
So, this chapter was 4,800 Jap characters (~2,300 english words), and the next is 6,500. It's gonna take me at least 2 or 3 days to translate.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 39: A Cliché 'Foolish Noble' Appeared

Mllhild:
The noble uses a lot of particles to emphasize things, so a lot of **bold words** might be present to give an impression of his loud voice.
Also, sorry about the delay. I had headache and was feeling weak — barely able to stand, in fact.

※※※

Author's Note:
Regarding Skill Sharing and the unique-ification stuff, the explanation seemed to be insufficient, resulting in some parts that are hard to understand.
Since I received some pointers from the readers, I changed some parts.
I published a detailed activity report, so please look at it for further information.

For those who say that looking at the activity report is troublesome, I also included a brief explanation in the afterword of this chapter.

The one who barged into the Guild Master's room was a fat, sluggish, unhealthy looking man clad in silver armor.

… Who the heck is this? I didn't see him on the way in — I couldn't even sense his presence… *Ah*, maybe it's an effect of his equipment?

Name : Auguste Alsund Age : 29
Race : Human
Occupation : Soldier
State : Normal

Status:
Level : 30
HP : 108 MP : 99 STR : 52 END : 53 AGI : 45 INT : 50 MGC : 47 DI

Skills:
Acting Lv.1, Singing Lv.1, Horsemanship Lv.1, Deceit Lv.1, Court Etiquett

Unique Skills:
Law of Lies Lv5

Titles:
Viscount, Vice Commander of Aressa's Knight Order

Equipment:
Mithril Longsword, Sturdy Silver Full-Body Armor, Red Lion Mantle, Rin

He's quite unbalanced, isn't he... Despite being Level 30, his status values are low — probably around that of an E Rank Adventurer.

Besides that, his Skills are beyond lame. Things like Socializing are high, so he's probably a noble of some sort, but something like Sword Arts Lv1... Isn't that way too low for a Knight? And yet, despite that he has the title of Vice Commander?

「What exactly are you referring to with, Sir Auguste?」
「Exactly as should be expected! A Demon's magic stone? A thing of such value... For a young girl to monopolize it is absolutely **unacceptable**!」
「I thought that's what you were meaning, but... Regarding subjugations, the raw materials of Demonic Beasts defeated completely by oneself are granted wholly to the person in question. She, having defeated the demon, has the legal rights to the Magic Stone. Or rather, for giving the Demon's raw materials to the Guild despite that, there isn't a single reason why we should hold her at fault.」
「*Nonsense!* If it was something to the degree of *Hobgoblin*

materials, then you could let her have as many as she wants, but high-ranking materials like the ones from a ***Demon*** — just handing it over to the likes of a low-class Adventurer would be **absolutely absurd**!」

In the end, it seems that the materials we obtained were even more amazing than I thought. I'm regretting giving that body away a bit, now...

「This young girl, didn't she arbitrarily act on her own? **That's clearly a violation of orders**! This sort of person, does she even have the right to receive a proper reward?!」
「*Fuu*... If we're moving to the subject of 'order violation', then believe me when I say it really can't be helped. Just about every Adventurer would end up as subject to that judgement, after all. In fact, it would be rather strange if Adventurers *didn't* behave on their own accord. If you know of an Adventurer that hasn't violated any rules or orders, then please, I would very much like to meet them.」
「So you're all just a band of **low lives** after all...」
「Well, compared to the well-behaved gentlemen of the Knight Order, it's a given that we'd end up looking like a gathering of crude ruffians.」

The Guild Master's eyes aren't smiling at all while he speaks... One can even feel the blood thirst being emitted. It's gotten to the point that I've started admiring this fat noble for not noticing it at all. Maybe because his facial skin is so thick, he ended up being naturally thick-headed?

「*Hmm*. Then let me tell you something good. This lass is lying, alright?」

Giku-

Ah, is that this fellow's unique skill?

Allows the user to see through lies spoken by others, while making one's o

It's an ideal Skill for crooks, dictators, and founders of questionable religious sects. How does this guy own such a Skill and still only have the rank of a Vice Commander in a local Knight Order? In regards to the type of position held by hated people in fantasy novels, isn't the scale too small?

Depending on the way it's used, it's a skill capable of doing horrendous things, and yet… Well… I suppose this just goes to show you that no matter how excellent a Skill is, its power is fully reliant on its user.

It would seem that we've been driven into a corner… Or, we would be if his next words were what I expected. But they weren't.

「She said that the Magic Stone was annihilated, but that was *definitely* a lie. There's no doubt that she's hiding it somewhere.」

Huh? No, that wasn't a lie, you know? To say 'it was annihilated' was the truth.

「… Even if that's the case, she owns the property rights to the Magic Stone.」
「No, a false report in this sort of situation **can't be tolerated**! Besides, what if she's hiding something else, too?」
「Really annihilated.」
「Are you **still lying**?」

What the heck is this guy saying? Since he can detect lies, he should know that what Fran said was the truth…

— No, that's just it, isn't it? It's possible that he's well known for having the Law of Lies Skill. In that case, if he says that someone is lying, then they're automatically turned into a liar. Using that, he's planning on setting Fran up.

「?」

『Fran, don't talk for now』
（Understood.）

Now, the real question is 'What's his goal?'...

「This isn't the site for official talks — she only came here to talk privately. Even if she spoke in jest, there isn't any sort of law that would find fault in that, is there?」

The Guild Master is strangely covering for us. Perhaps he has a hatred of nobles? Well, regardless of his reasons, I'm grateful. Go for it, Guild Master!

「She attempted to steal from nobles like myself while we weren't aware: no matter the place, that's a crime!」
「I will say it once again: I wasn't aware that something like telling a joke was a crime.」
「Regardless, this girl **isn't trustworthy!** I've heard that you don't even know her birthplace! She might be a ***foreign spy!*** Deliver *all* of her belongings to the Knight Order! If we receive and inspect the goods, no more will be said about her rude conduct today.」

Haa? This fellow, what did he just say? Deliver her belongings? Isn't that just a cover up for extortion? Does he seriously think we'll abide?

「What are you saying?!」
「To begin with, you bastards of the Adventurers Guild ignored our Knight Order and went to the Goblin Subjugation on your own, right? You *loathed* that us elite Knights would snatch away the gains — an appropriate behavior for *vulgar* Adventures. If you hand over the Demon's raw materials, we just might overlook this slight.」
「*Haa?* We *did* contact the Knight Order. The date and time we planned on carrying out the Subjugation were properly conveyed.」
「*Humph*, don't ***lie***! At least half of the loot, all of the Demon's materials, and this girl's baggage: **hand them over!**」「**Half the gains? All of the Demon's materials? There is no reason**

to give such things to the Knight Order that didn't even do anything.」
「What are you saying?! You bastard Adventurers — too blinded by greed with what's waved in front of you — made light of protecting the town and went towards the Goblin den! While you did so, we Knights carried the town's public order on *our* backs!」
「So, you all got cold feet and didn't want to participate, thus ignoring our request…」
「*Oi*, did you say anything?」
「No. Nothing.」

So it was like that… The Knight Order was scared of the Hobgoblins, so they deliberately ignored the appeal for participation in the Subjugation campaign. And so, the Adventurers went alone. When they returned, they not only had very few casualties, but also produced tremendous gains. Now, the Knights want in on those gains.

So, who're the greedy ones again?

「*Oi*, kid! For starters, hand over that sword. It appears to be considerably beautiful, so where did you steal it? Speak the truth!」

The shitty, fat noble approached.

（Kill?）
『Wait, let's observe a little while longer.』

I also want to beat him into the dirt and chop him up, but we should refrain.

「Inside the Guild, the Knight Order has no authority. Even so, do you still insist on ordering us around? To demand us to hand over half the gains that the

Adventurers risked their lives for?」
「It's our natural right.」

This bastard, he really said it. And now, even more tremendous bloodthirst is gushing out of the Guild Master. *Uwa*, after getting this angry, he's done well for enduring the desire to start a fight. Instead, he's just smiling cheerfully on the surface... This Guild Master is a man worthy of respect.

「*First*, hand over signed contracts. *You*, bastard, if you write your name here then the delivery of the raw material will be accepted.」
「Is this the consensus of the Knight Order? Or, to rephrase my question, the Commander also knows of this, right?」
「..... Of course.」
「Then, is it fine for me to inquire?」
「*H-Huh*? That... There is no need for such —」
「The one who decides that is me.」

It seems that the tides have changed.

「To inquire about something like this, is there any problems with that?」
「D-Don't joke around! Are you saying that I'm lying? Un-Unbelievable. For today I will take my leave!」

***Uwaa*... He totally hit the nail on the head, huh. Whether it was for earning reputation among his peers or for indulging in embezzlement of profit, it's certain that this guy came here without permission.**

『Ok, let's try it out on him.』

Try what, you ask? Skill Taker, of course. He even has a Unique Skill all nicely prepared, after all.

(I want to try too.)
『*Mh*. First, I will attempt it.』

The target is obviously the Unique Skill. Thinking about it, this Skill would be quite hard to use on an opponent if you didn't have Appraisal, huh…

I'm mentioning that because the Demon didn't have Appraisal. The Dungeon Master had said that he won the Demon through something like a gacha-automat[M1], so maybe the Demon's Skills were strange because of that? Or perhaps Demonic Beasts won in the early stages of a Dungeon all have random Skills? Or maybe the Dungeon Master simply forgot to add Appraisal to its Skills…?

Yeah, that last one is the most likely.

「I *will* come again!」

Oops, the sucker almost left.

『Skill Taker!』

— — Success. The best part of this Skill is that it has no visible effects, allowing it to secretly steal Skills. It's truly villainous.

Law of Lies: Lv5, get! With this, we've verified that Unique Skills can be stolen. Furthermore, it seems that the Skill's true danger is that the stolen Skill remains at the same level when it's taken. If a high leveled Skill was stolen, you'd suddenly become an expert.

The flaw is that the Unique Skill that I gained doesn't count as a Set Skill. Whether for good or bad, because it's registered as mine, I can't share it with Fran. The

opposite will most likely hold true as well. In the future, we'll have to choose who steals what depending on the situation.

「Skill Taker.」

Following me, Fran muttered in a tiny voice. Naturally, this was also a success. The next highest Skill, Court Etiquette Lv4, got stolen.

***Kukukuku*. It'll be quite entertaining when he notices that his precious Skills are gone!**

(Teacher. Did it.)
『Ou, it was a huge success.』
(Now: kill?)
『Can I kill him, can I kill him... Why do you want to put an end to him so much?』
(Hate him.)

I have a hunch that this child is gradually becoming dangerous... Right, shouldn't she become more ladylike and refined now that Court Etiquette has been obtained? No? It's impossible after all, huh...

「*Haa*... I'm very sorry about that.」
「Who was that?」
「A greenhorn son of a big noble, and also the Vice Commander of Aressa's Knight Order. He's a snob that bought his position with gold, and because his pedigree is good he's hard to deal with. Around one year back he moved here, and ever since he's been brandishing his social position at every opportunity. Because of that, he's hated by most of the town. Showing such foolish behavior towards the Guild is a first, though.」
「Complain to the Knight Order?」
「Impossible. With people like him, their parents will

suppress any complaints to the end. It's because of that that he's grown up to become such a fool, too. Moreover, he possesses a Skill called Law of Lies that can see through lies... To be frank, even I can't deal with him, and he can't be taken lightly.」
「Small fry, but Vice Commander? With money: it's OK?」
「You should take complaints like that to the country itself. Anyways, small fry or not, his level is reasonably high. It's often said that nobles party up with strong Knights and hunt Demonic Beasts to raise their level, so that's likely the case for him.」

So, it's real power-leveling huh. If it's like that, then it's no wonder that his combat-series Skills haven't grown. In the end, he only has the *appearance* of a level 30 knight.

「Next time: beat to a pulp.」
「If possible, please don't. The Vice Commander is a fool, but the Commander is a reasonable fellow, so if I report this event to him the Vice should behave for a short while.」
「Alright.」
「Really, don't. If it becomes a situation where you started a fight, the troubles won't end with you alone.」

It's for your own sake after all, huh. Well, in this person's case, a give-and-take relationship is probably more reliable than friendship anyways.

「Once again, for offering us the Demon's raw materials: thank you very much. Thanks to that, the Guild has profited greatly.」
「Nn.」
「So, do you really have the Magic Stone?」

Es tu, Guild Master!?

「It's a joke.」
「Dangerous.」
「What is?」
「Almost reached for it[M2].」
「*Hahahaha*! That's quite scary! Well then, please take care around him. He abuses his Skill to see through lies and has been remorselessly tricking others.」
「It's alright.」
「Is that so? If you say so, then it doesn't matter, but…」
「Finished?」
「Yes, thank you again. *Ah*, but one last thing.」
「?」
「Please go rank up at reception. I've already processed the documents.」
「Again?」
「Yes, again. You raised outrageous accomplishments, after all. An Adventurer who exterminated a Demon alone… It's not possible for such a person to claim to be Rank F. For now, your rank will be raised to D.」
「Not E?」
「I planned to raise it to C, but as expected I wasn't able to obtain the other branches' consent.」

Well, that should have been obvious. A 12 year-old girl who just became an Adventurer independently crushed a Rank B Demon? What kind of adventure novel would that situation come from? In fact, getting raised to D is already a stretch.

「Understood. Going to reception.」
「Please treat us well from now on. Your compensation will also be paid when you get there — alongside a bonus.」
「Nn.」

It seems that the rumor that we'd be ranking up at the

reception spread, so the other Adventurers got noisy. Apparently, this was the fastest rank up in this Guild's history. It's only been 4 days since we registered, after all.

It started with betting on whether it was actually Fran that would be ranking up, but through skipping a rank, we appear to have caused some really heavy losses... Or rather, the racket we caused became even louder than originally expected.

「*Haha!* Thanks to the little miss, I made a killing!」
「*Shi—t!* Such a heavy loss...!」
「*Wahahahaha!*」
「So, how is it? Shall I treat you to a drink?」
「Idiot, as if such a small child could drink alcohol!」
「Thanks.」
「O-Oh! You can?」
「Then, let's get you an Apple Juice!」

And with that, Fran's rank went up to D. Rank D, huh... She's already a splendidly 'average' Adventurer.

Thinking about today's events, maybe it would be better if I reveal myself? There might be even more situations like the one from earlier, but if it's a Rank D Adventurer, then having a slightly odd Magic Sword wouldn't be all that strange.

A sword that grows stronger by absorbing magic stones... If that much was revealed, it would also become easier for Fran. Anything more than that... I don't know. Next time, let's try asking Old Man Gallus for some advice.

Anyways, in relation to the Demon's Magic Stone, most of the fellows seem to think that Fran is secretly holding on to it, so revealing myself is no problem. Their

understanding will simply change from「She's secretly holding onto it」to「Her sword absorbed it」. If it's like that, then returning only the Demon's raw materials to the Guild is fine. It's also thanks to that that everyone got a bonus.

So... Next, shall we provide today's alcohol on us? Accumulating small favors is important, after all.

「Today: my treat.」
「What're ya sayin'? As if I'd let m'self be treated by such a small kid!]
「It's okay. Also got a bonus」
「*Ohh*. How big of you!」
「Not fat[M3].」
「*Gahaha*, ain't you amusing, lil' miss!」
「Then, I'll be regaining my losses through drinks!」
「*Wahahaha!*」

In the end, those drunkards managed to drown no less than 100,000 Gorudo...

Author Note: (modified)
Below, there's a longer explanation, but the point is the MC's and Fran's Shareable Skills are only the ones obtained from absorbing the magic stones, called 'Set Skills'. These Skills can be Normal, Extra, or Unique skills. Any others can't be shared. However, any Set Skills (sharable) that go through a change and become Unique Skills can no longer be shared. (Just to note, Sword Arts → Master Sword Arts is *not* an example of a Skill changing from a Normal Skill to a Unique Skill)

Mllhild:
There're a bunch of references to the chapters where explanations come from, but the important bits are

these:

1. **Any Skill taken with Skill Taker is *theirs alone*.**
2. **If Fran or Teacher develop/acquire a skill *normally*, it cannot be shared.**
3. **Because this doesn't matter anywhere after this chapter: remember that only Teacher has Law of Lies Lv5, and only Fran has Court Etiquette Lv4.**

[M1] Essentially, the Demon would have been won by something like a 7-7-7 line on Slots.

[M2] 'It' being her sword (meaning she almost considered the Guild Master an enemy and pulled the sword on him). It's for this things that I love Fran.

[M3] Generous = futobbara, Fat Belly = futohara, so Fran thinks she got called fat.
Ensig: Thanks to lygarx for offering a suggestion on how to translate that joke over to English!

← | Main | →

Chapter 40: Poisonous Fish Seem to be Delicious

Ensig:
From now on, any releases of Sword-shisho will be on Mondays and Fridays, as to allow buffer time for Mllhild's schooling and such.

※※※

Author's Note:
This is today's second chapter.
It's sort of like an apology for any trouble I've caused with the recent revisions to the setting, I suppose?

It's been 2 days since the Goblin subjugation.

We've come to the guild to look for a commission, but it's not for the money. At the moment our pockets are full, after all.

After selling off all of the Hobgoblin Horns, looted equipment, and the materials from the Beetles, we gained around 30,000 Gorudo. Considering the fact that they were materials from small fries, you could say they were sold a bit on the expensive side. Furthermore, some of the Hobgoblins' equipment included weak magic items, so those were particularily expensive.

On top of all that, we received quite the bonus for our participation in the subjugation. The standard participation reward was 30,000 Gorudo, with any bonuses[E1] amounting to ~40,000 Gorudo. Fran's special bonus was another 300,000 Gorudo on top of that.

Adding the cash we gained from selling the raw materials, our total income was ~400,000 Gorudo. Or, it *would* have been, but because we treated everyone to drinks, it decreased by 100,000. Because the

other Adventurers got a nice bonus out of the subjugation, they ended up turning up in the morning to thank us.

Anyways, today's request will be for the sake of gaining experience. As a consequence of our irregular rank ups, we have insufficient experience in completing 'normal' requests. In fact, the only one would have been the commission for collecting Heal Grass.

Therefore, we decided to look for a normal request.

『The only commissions Fran can take as a Rank D are marked C, D or E Rank.』

We're no longer eligable for easy G and F Rank commissions. They wouldn't have been bad commissions to accumulate experience...

『Harvesting, escorting, patrolling the highway, and assisting in construction with magic, huh.』
「Subjugation commissions: good.」

Assuredly the most convenient requests for us are subjugation commissions, but the bulletin board doesn't have any of our Rank. Are they popular?

『How about asking Ms. Nell?』
「Nn.」

Luckily the lineup to the reception desk was also barren.

「Nell.」
「Oh, Fran. Good day[M1].」
「Good day.」
「About the recent Goblin subjugation, you played quite an important part in it, didn't you?」
「Well.」
「You even ended up defeating a demon. *Waa*~, isn't that amazing~? You're cute, strong *and* lovely!」

「Thank you.」
「*Kyaaaan!* An embarrassed Fran is also cute~!」

W-When did they get so close? Unbeknownst to me who is with Fran almost 24/7, did they get together at some point? Just where the heck…?

「No subjugation commissions?」
「Ah, right now there are none, huh~ Well, to begin with, the recent Goblin stampede was an abnormal case, right? Usually, Demonic Beasts seldom appear so easily.」

Of course. If hoards of Demonic Beasts appeared in the vicinity of the town resulting in subjugation commissions being emitted every day, then the daily lives of normal citizens wouldn't be possible after all.

Still… It appears that the number of Demonic Beasts in the vicinity of Aressa is even less than we thought.

「Understood.」
「Ah, wait a moment. It's not a subjugation commission, but there *is* a request that you'll certainly encounter Demonic Beasts in, is that ok?」
「Where?」
「*Mh*~ Wait….This one.」

Hm? Investigation of the ecology of the Poisonous Swamp? 'It's possible that Demonic Beasts have settled in the swamp[M2] situated near the Forest of Starvation. Verification of their existence is needed before starting the reclamation project'?

「The area mentioned is a troublesome swamp that poisonous gas spills out of occasionally; the gas causes poison damage to any peddlers going through it.」

It seems because of that, there're plans to fill up the poisonous

swamp... But before sending in the workers, it's necessary to investigate whether or not there's any danger. It's especially so since there are rumors of Demonic Beasts living there, so this investigation appears to have maximum priority.

「A subjugation party would usually be sent out, but...」
「Defeating them all: OK?」

Fran, that's a death flag!

『Fran, that's no good.』
「? Don't defeat?」
『No, I don't mean that part, but...』
「It's no problem if you defeat them. Rather, doing so would cut down on the labor.」
「Nn.」

It's no use. I'll just have to carefully pay attention.

「While you're at it, why not take this commission as well?」
「Medical plant harvesting?」
「Right. It's a herb called New Moon Grass, and it's quite rare. It doesn't grow close to the town, but if it's close to the poisonous swamp then I think you should able to find it.」
「Understood. I'll take it.」
「Thanks. I pray for your good luck. Let's meet again in the baths?」
「Nn.」

Now I see, so it was in the inn's bath! Well, that's good. Proactively wanting to interact with others besides me, that is.

『According to the map... The swamp's a little ways away from where we met Randell.』
「Nn.」
『If we depart now, I get the impression that we'll return... Probably the day after tomorrow?』

A sleeping bag, blanket, and cookware is all we brought. With that, our camping preparations were complete.

◇◆◇

「That?」
『Looks like it.』

Around 100 meters worth of wetlands can be seen ahead of us.

We barely noticed any time passing since we left the town.

On the way here, the only enemies we met were Black Bugs and Giant Centipedes. I suppose because we having smashed their den, we didn't encounter a single Goblin.

In regards to any Demonic Beasts that leave a Dungeon prior to its defeat, after a few days their link to the Dungeon is severed. Because of that, even when the dungeon 'died', the Demonic Beast that left the Goblin Den didn't end up getting exterminated. Instead, they continued living on the outside.

And so, the moment the Dungeon got shut down all the Hobgoblins got annihilated, but the regular Goblins who had already left the dungeon should have still been roaming around here…

I guess most scattered or ran way. Even while camping, we weren't attacked even once. Needless to say, we were extremely bored.

「Smells like poison…」
『Abnormal State Resistance is set, alongside Poison Breath and Poison Absorption. There're no problems.』
「No Demonic Beasts?」
『Seems so. Yet, if they're lurking deep in the swamp it's possible that we won't be able to sense them.』
「Attacking with magic.」
『*Wait, wait*! If you blow it up imprudently, then poison will end up scattered all over the place.』

The end goal of the commission is to reduce the damage coming from the poisonous swamp, so what are you thinking, trying to amplify it…?

『A way to minimize the collateral damage…』
「Fill it with Soil Magic.」
『The swamp is too big. Soil pollution is also a concern.』

Hmmm… Maybe I should try leaving Fran behind and scanning the area by myself?

「Store the swamp.」
『?』
「Dimensional Storage: absorb swamp water. Like that: Demonic Beast left bare.」
『G-Genius? Indeed, that's a good idea.』

They wanted to reclaim the swamp anyways, so there shouldn't be any problem. If they're a group of people with high awareness, then they might be noisy about environmental problems or destruction of nature, but… I don't want to hear it! Even after coming to a different world, I don't want to care about stuff like that! That's only to be expected, right?

『Then, I'll be storing the swamp's water.』
「Nn.」

This will also be a good experiment. Currently, my Dimensional Storage's limit still isn't in sight. Adding up all the harvested Demonic Beast materials, it should currently contain about half of a 25_m pool.

So, let's see how much swamp water it can take. It's quite a large swamp, and its depth also seems to be considerable, so… Its Volume must be quite immentse.

『Alright! Harvesting: start!』

Zuzuzuzuzu— —

Slowly, the water level drops.

『It… It won't stop.』

Eh? Far from the limit being reached, the swamp's water is already decreased by half and the storage still isn't getting close to full.

『… I ended up harvesting it all.』
「More space?」
『Yeah. My guess is that it's not even half-filled.』

I think that around five 25 meter pools[M3] worth got absorbed, so… Dimensional Storage is incredible.

「Lots of Demonic Beasts.」
『*Hee*, those?』
「Fish.」

Appearance wise, they look like cow-sized Catfish.

Race : Madness Fish : Demonic Fish : Demonic Beast Lv7

HP : 100 MP : 32
STR : 33 END : 39 AGI : 38
INT : 10 MGC : 22 DEX : 17

Skills:
Stealth Lv3, Presence Perception Lv3, Poison Secretion Lv4, Poison Resis

Description:
A troublesome Demonic Beast that produces poison from its skin to kill o

Magic stone location: Head, interior of the brain.

Weak. Going by its status, it's a small fry. Still, with poison related abilities and the ability to hide beneath the water's surface, it'd be quite a nuisance. Well, it was no trouble for us though.

There were 5 of them total, but they were easily dispatched and Dismantled on the spot. The muddy poisonous fish scales, poison glands and poison fangs were stripped off immediately.

The body appears as though it'd be delicious, and from the bones a Dashi[M4] could be made. Fish dishes can now be added to our cooking repertoire.

『With this, the commission is complete. Next is collecting medical plants, so let's finish it quick and return.』

Author note:
I've been informed that when clicking on an author's name, some couldn't get to the author's page and see the activity report. So... Authors shouldn't use pen names?

When I go to look at the activity reports of others, I just click on the Author's name and go to their page, where their activity report can usually be seen, but...
Is there some where that isn't the case?
I haven't mastered Narou's functions by any means, so right now I don't know what to do. I'm sorry.

That being the case, in the afterword of the next chapter I will include a detailed record. I also have been considering adding settings and other such things to the data in Chapter 0.

[E1] It wasn't directly mentioned, but I'm pretty sure most (if not all) of the 'bonuses' being talked about here is from the Demon's materials.

[M1] Nell used 'konichiwa', so it can be assumed that Fran came to the adventure guild after 10AM. That's pretty late considering the fact that commissions are usually posted first thing in the morning.

[M2] Numa = lake/pond/bog/swamp, aka 'a body of water'. I'm going with 'swamp' since no one makes reclamation projects for a lake, and also because the water quantity is about 2,500㎥, which is a bit low for a lake.

[M3] 5 × 974㎥ = 4,970㎥ = 1,312,935Gallons

[E2] 毒牙 (@ the Footnote) ≠ 毒の牙 ('Poison Fang' in previous chapters). The former doesn't have a level, so I figure it's more of a Passive skill. That being the case, its name will be 'Poisonous Fangs'.

[M4] Japanese soup stock. Google it for images.

← | **Main** | →

※※※

Worried about the decline in the Goblin numbers? Sign up right here and take part in the one way seedbed experience to help maintain their numbers!

Mllhild:
Environmental protectors in a world full of monsters reminds me of this one manga were the activists free the orcs from a research station and-edited out by Ensig-

Ensig:
If you *really* want to know what was edited out… It was ecchi stuff. Ask Mllhild in the comments section if you really want to know.

I'll just silently judge you from the sidelines when I approve your comments.

Chapter 41: Otherworldly Cooking

Ensig:
Because there're a bunch of foods mentioned in this chapter, there'll be a considerable amount of links to food pics in this chapter. If you don't want your stomach to sing the song of its people, just ignore the links.

※※※

Author's Note:
Yesterday I posted 2 chapters, but from today on I'll be returning to 1 chapter a day.

Besides that, we've reached 1st place in the weekly ranking, and have over 10,000 bookmarks!
Thank you very much!

I will put even more fighting spirit into it and do my best!

It's now been 7 days since the Goblin subjugation

It's late at night, and we're in the inn's kitchen.

As promised to Fran, I'm here to cook her some food. Since the sight of a lightly floating sword cooking would certainly cause a commotion, Fran is here with me too.

The cooks said "If it's late at night after the Dining Room is closed, then there's no problem", so we've properly received permission. With this, I'll give my all at cooking!

『*Chan Chan Chara Chachacharara~*[M1]』
「Chanchan?」
『*Chanchara, Chan Chan Chan~*』

「?」
『Welcome! It's time for Otherworldly Cooking!』
「*Oh*~~?」

Not understanding the meaning of my words yet still guessing the mood, Fran started clapping.

『The first meal today is… This!』
「Meat?」
『Correct! Prepared for you today is minced meat from Rock Bison and Crash Boar: 30_{kg} of each!』

Moreover, Rune Tulip bulbs that resemble onions, Golden Chicken eggs, breadcrumbs, and all sorts of spices were also prepared.

『Then, knead this Fran.』
「Nn.」
『You should make use of what you have, right?』
「With this: able to eat Teacher's cooking every day.」
『Considering your Titles, you should also be able to make good dishes.』
「Can't make what I don't know.」
『Ah, that's right after all.』

What Fran wants to eat is Earth's cooking, and no one but me can make that. Even if similar cooking is possible, in the end the degree of refinement would end up different.

So, with that I went on to chop the Rune Tulip bulbs. For the sake of cutting them into fine pieces, I've decided to use Aura・Blade.

So far, I had used myself after taking a thorough wash through boiling and purification magic, but… Still, I had used Demonic Poison Fang for slaying Demonic Beasts earlier, so a bit of anxiety still remains. Until now Fran's shown no sign of bad conditions, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's safe.

The finely chopped Rune Tulips were carefully stir-fried in the frying pan.

『Mix together the minced meats, then make an onion-shaped ball. After that, add spices and keep on mixing.』
「Leave it to me.」

I also mixed the remaining minced meat with Telekinesis. When that was completed, 60_{kg} worth of special-hamburger base was completed.

Honestly, I had a feeling that I went overboard, but… When it's put into Dimensional Storage it won't go bad, so it's fine.

『Now let's start grilling the hamburgers.』
「Nn.」

Even using an enormous oven with Magic to shorten the process, it couldn't be done in one go.

『In the meantime, the next step is to cut up all of these vegetable-like ingredients and put them into a stew.』
「Nn.」
『Then, I'll also begin cutting.』

The ingredients besides Demonic Beast flesh were arranged plentifully.

Affected by the ambiance of the town market, I now realize that I may had gotten a bit carried away. After following my instincts, I got completely swept up in buying ingredients… A large earthenware pot of Miso and Soy Sauce alongside a giant bag of spices were also bought. After that, several super-extra-large sized pots got purchased.

Because of that, another $100{,}000_{Gorudo}$ ended up being used. Ha… Hahaha…

— No, it was for the sake of making delicious meals for Fran, so it was necessary!

『Now we add some water… And next, we'll throw in the spices.』

I added heat with Magic while using Telekinesis and Magic to shred the vegetables like a mixer. When finished, it was a specially-made demi-glace. It smelt good, to say the least.

After that, tomato sauce, consomme soup, chicken bouillon and so forth were also made. At this point I've started instructing Fran on the ways to use the ingredients.

「*Guro*, *guro*.」
『Mhm. Keep stirring, just like that.』

Around the time the third batch of hamburgers were cooked, all the soup and sauces were completed.

Good, *good*. If there are matching seasonings at the market, then I'm able to make any cuisine!

I cover the hamburgers in demi-glace sauce and toss them into Dimensional Storage one after another. The plan is to have them available regardless of the time and place while still steaming hot.

In the same way, tomato juice and japanese ponzu flavored ones were made. Tyrant Tiger Stew, Deep Fried Blast Turtle, Dopple Snake Kabayaki, Fried Stone Spider, Stewed Rock Bison Tongue, Ginger Air-grilled Crash Boar, Sausages, Bacon, Jerky, Meat Miso and other such dishes were completed as well.

『Alright. The meat dishes are almost finished.』
「Nn!」

Before long, dawn broke. We'll end here today and continue tomorrow.

◇◆◇

And so, we're once again in the kitchen.

Today we'll be doing fish-based cooking. — Well, even if I say that, I don't have any fish ingredients other than the Madness Fish meat. I think I'll turn it into
Nitsuke, Shioyaki and Tempura.

I also considered making some into Meunière, but as expected a Japanese should eat Japanese cuisine! Er... Not that I'd be eating it, of course.

Ah, by the way, about the poisonous swamp: it seems that our actions turned into some sort of ghost story about a suddenly-vanishing poisonous swamp. Ms. Nell knew that we did something, but it seems that she wasn't the type of person who would spread that information to other Adventurers. Maybe we overdid it...

Oops, while thinking the Nitsuke finished. It's got a good color to it.

Well, that's about all for the main cooking, but we're not finished yet.

Next are the side dishes. Let's start off with soups. We'll be re-using the soup-like things made yesterday, but this time we'll fine-tune them with salt and pepper as well as throw in some other ingredients. A Consomme Soup with Sausages... Wouldn't that be delicious?

Furthermore, making use of the Madness Fish bones, the Chinese Fish Dashi Soup was also completed.

Of course, I didn't forget about Salad and Stir-Fried Vegetables either. The nutritional balance has to be enforced with an iron grip with Fran in her growth period. Related to that, her current state is quite worrying. Lately she's gotten somewhat better-rounded, but compared to the other kids in town she still looks feeble.

Furthermore, it feels like her height is little short... Meals are important, no matter what.

「Nn?」
『No, it's nothing. Next are the staple foods.』

Somehow, I had made light of Aressa's market, as today I found myself surprised that even Rice was sold there. In this area, the Northern and Southern regions appear to meet, so Rice and Wheat-based items are both eaten.

The Rice is cooking quietly, in several earthenware pots we bought for its sake.

Of course, flour is also being made use of. Udon, Bread, Naan and Okonomiyaki, all such carbohydrate-parade foods were around. Bread could be found in the standard baguette type, but there were also the rectangular type that Japanese people love.

We also made Chinese Noodles, since Lye Water was also at the market.

I don't think that any mistakes were made when kneading the noodles, since the process of making them went well because of the strange water. And so, Ramen, Yakisoba, and more could be made.

Now, since we have rice and Naan... *That* has to be made.

『Well then, next I was thinking of making a special dish.』
「Special?」

Hey, hey, your expectations are a bit too high if your eyes are gleaming like that... Well, I guess I'll just need to do by best, huh?

「What is it?」
『It's a special-hyper-ultra dish! Its name is ―― ***Curry!***』
「*Kuuree*? What is it?」
『*Fufufufu*. Well, you'll see.』

Curry was my favorite food back on Earth. Here, I don't eat — not even a single sign of appetite has shown up thus far. But the feeling of wanting Fran to eat delicious food is there instead. Therefore: Curry needs to be made. We can't go on without it.

『Break the spices like this.』
「Beautiful.」
『It's for the sake of making a delicious curry.』
「Cook it?」
『Right. While blending it, you keep on cooking.』
「Hmmm.」

One hour later, 3 business sized pots filled to the brim with curry sit in front of us.

In the beginning, we finished with just a normal sized pot. Spices are expensive, after all.

However, after Fran taste tested the first batch, she kept on eating it at a dreadful pace. In the blink of an eye, we ran out. Afterwards, upon Fran's continuous demands, all of the remaining spices were put towards making curry in vast amounts.

Sweet, mild, and scathing flavors were made, and the vegetables and meat were altered to fit. Even if I say so myself, they're masterpieces. If we took them to Japan, I have absolute confidence that it would sell.

「I was born to meet this dish.」
『You like it that much?!』
「Thanks Teacher.」
『That feels like the most emotion-loaded "Thanks" I've received up until now…』

I have to make sure that Fran doesn't eat only Curry from now on…

Counting all the dishes made in these 2 days, ~2000 portions should

have been made. In other words, we've made over 1 year's worth of food. However, contrary to her appearance Fran is a big eater, so the chances that it'll disappear sooner than that is quite high.

Well, with this there won't be any concerns about meals for a while at least.

「For now: second serving of curry.」
『But you just ate…』
「Please.」
『… It can't be helped. Only one more serving, alright?』
「Nn!」

Fran exercises properly, so just one more shouldn't hurt… Right?

[M1] Like this?

← | **Main** | →

※※※

Mllhild:
This is the second chapter I've TL'd today, marking 6 hours of straight translating. With this, I'm at around 1000 characters (~500 words) per hour.

\o/ That's faster than when I started!

Anyways, a short announcement concerning a different series I translate: MaNoWa.
It's now open for several Translators. The Author ended the story after ~1,100 chapters and alone, I won't be able do it. At my 1-chapter-a-week pace, it'd need 21 years. If someone kidnapped and imprisoned me, I would only get 4 chapters done a day, so with margin this gives 25 per week. In that case, it'd still take 11 Months for it to be finished.

Chapter 42: Regarding the Future and Such

Mllhild:
There are some new names here. If you have any better ideas for them, please feel free to comment them.

※※※

Author's Note:
Eh? The reaction to the cooking part was that great…?
The number of replies was the highest of any of my previous chapters.

It's now been 10 days since the Goblin subjugation.

This morning, we returned after what seemed like a long time to Gallus' shop. As usual, merchants had intense looks in their eyes while they loitered around his store.

「Afternoon.」
「Well, if it isn't little miss and Teacher! It's been a while! What can I help you with today?」
『First things first, how's the armor coming along?』
「*Gahaha!* It's going fine! When you see it, you'll definitely be surprised!」
「Looking forward.」
「So, did you only come to ask for an update?」
『No. Actually, we wanted a bit of advice ――』

I explain to the old man how I grow stronger as Magic Sword through absorbing Magic Stones. Since Gallus hadn't leaked the fact that I was an Intelligent Weapon, he seemed like a trustworthy fellow.

「I see, so you had that type of ability… And, essentially, you're

wondering whether it's alright for others to know or not?」
『Uh-huh. So, what do you think?』
「Hmm… I think you'd better not.」
「As expected: unusual.」
「Got that right. I've heard of large scale Magical Tools having similar traits, but for a sword to have such ability… It's the first I've heard of it.」

So my abilities were something that even a famous Blacksmith hasn't heard of? In that case, it's definitely not on the level of a normal person's knowledge…

「As expected. Teacher: amazing.」
「A bit *too* amazing. Intelligent Weapons aren't unheard of, but one that can grow by absorbing Magic Stones — and even gets skills through them to boot… It'd be easy to see something like that being labeled as a Divine Sword.」

Divine Swords: equipment of legends. The ones that exist are undoubtedly super weapons. Compared to me, they're on a whole different level of might.

「A single Divine Sword can easily influence the military balance between Nations, you know.」
『It's at that level?』
「Aye. Even though my knowledge only covers 5 of them, each one has unbelievable legends associated with 'em.
Being the origin of the 'Divine Sword' title, the first divine sword: Alpha.
Achieving fame in a war which ruined entire Countries, the divine sword that brings abnormal mentality to its wielder: Berserk.
Having served a single horseman to kill an army measuring 30,000 strong, the Battle-Horse sword: Chariot.
Considered to have sealed the Demon King itself, the Demon King's sword: Diablos.
And then, the sword of flame that we've already spoken about before: Ignis.

In addition to those, there're several other Divine Swords. Almost all of them have stories of mass-slaughter, and end with sites of great destruction in the end.」
「Divine Swords: amazing.」
「Well, there's always some exaggerations mixed in with their tales, but without a doubt they're on completely different levels. Of course, every Nation keeps their blades' locations a secret, and the whereabouts of the Divine-Class Master Blacksmith(s) who forged the Divine Swords is completely unknown. Whether they're still alive, or if a new Divine Class Blacksmith was born… Anything related to them is unknown.」
「Why?」
「That's the question, isn't it. Maybe they didn't want to be used by governments and hid, or… Maybe they're being sheltered by the Gods. There're lots of rumors, but the truth is unknown. It's for that reason that each Nation keeps an iron grip on the Divine Swords that they know of.」
『So, they're existences of that magnitude, huh…?』
「Right. If by any chance the information that you're a Divine Sword spread… No doubt people would come to steal you for the sake of acquiring your strength. And it wouldn't be some small number, either. It wouldn't even matter if you were *actually* a true one or not; in such peoples' eyes, it'd be fine to steal first and verify later. After that, they'd test you out to measure your ability.」

Whether it's entire Nations or simply individuals, Divine Swords are certain to be aimed at by many.

「Even if their opponent wields a Divine Sword: surprise attacks, poisoning… There're always ways to give themselves an edge. Since your wielder is the little miss, some might turn to 'sweeter' forms of persuasion, but…」
『In the end, it's better to keep my abilities hidden.』
「You ought to do that. I'm happy that you came to open up to me, but make sure you don't become careless and get discovered from now on, alright?」

The risk gained from revealing my abilities is far too large. For now, let's keep it a secret.

◇◆◇

After departing from old man Gallus', we went to the Guild to turn in our commissions as per usual. We were doing well day after day —— would be something I say tentatively, but it's a fact that we've been steadily piling up completed commissions. There was nothing else to do, after all.

「Today: also disappointed.」
『There was nothing besides insects, after all.』
「No consistency when chewed.」
『On this side, I've only gained 7 points in Magic Stone Value in these 10 days…』

Commissions like 'harvesting' or 'investigating' are nice, but our desired Experience Points and Magic Stone Value aren't being gathered at all.

『Fran is Level 25 now, right?』
「Nn.」
『Then… From now on, it'd be best not thinking that you'll be leveling up as fast as you used to.』
「Next: dungeons?」
『Haunts, probably.』

According to the rumors we've heard, Haunts have Demonic Beasts in high numbers, just like Dungeons. It's for that reason that they're known as "Boundaries of Demons[E1]", after all.

Maokami Plains also falls under that category. I think above 90% of the creatures there were Demonic Beasts, after all.

That being said, I'd prefer not going back there. Not only is there the fact that we'd have to get close to the Forest of Starvation, but it also

appears that the Threat Level in the plains skyrocketed since I left.

Around the time we came to town, the Adventurers made an investigation of Maokami Plains — as to keep an eye on the turf war between large scale Demonic Beast. The reports filed to result of said investigation confirmed the presence of several Rank B Demonic Beasts.

During the time I was there, neither shadows nor figures of such beings were present. However, when talking about Demonic Beasts, even without breeding they can be produced spontaneously when magic power coagulates. Most likely, the Demonic Beast that showed up were born like that.

If that's the case, then after I departed, Rank B Demonic Beast were born…

— Really close!

If they had been born any earlier, I might not be here now. Or rather, that fact is almost certain.

There's even the possibility of an A Rank existing there, so the reconnaissance team's main body is still in the middle of continuing the survey. Because the danger is high in the Plains itself, they're supposedly observing from inside of the Forest of Starvation. Staying in that forest for a prolonged period: thanks, but no thanks.

Anyways, an A Rank, huh… For such a being to have come into existence… Saying that the Plain is an A Rank Haunt gives me a bad feeling, but I can agree with it. Or rather, I should probably count my lucky stars that the Demonic Beasts were weaker while I was there.

「Then: dungeon delving after all?」
『That's also possible.』

However, our taking down the Demon in this last Dungeon was

largely due to luck. If the Demon was cool-headed and came to finish us off at long range, then we would have had to flee without being able to do anything.

『Let's not challenge Demon bosses if we come across any. We might be able to handle weaker ones, though.』

Hm... From now on, we should collect information on Dungeons and Haunts. We can't leave the town before receiving the armor from Gallus anyways.

(Check up on dungeon info?)
『Mh. Let's pass the rest of the day doing that.』

We'll have time to spare no matter what we do, so let's take our time searching the Guild's reference room for today.

In the second floor of the Guild is a room dedicated to books and documents. I can't really imagine many Adventurers reading documents as part of their preparations, but there seem to be some people here and there. They're all Scouts or Mages. Different from the muscle brains responsible for the vanguard, they came to search for information on their commissions, I guess.

One can really see the sorrows of the intellectual Adventurers up here.

「Oho. Is this your first time here, missy?」
「Nn.」
「Then, let me take a look see at your Adventurer Card.」

At the Reference Room's reception desk sits an old man with a small build. He's bald with a white beard that reaches his chest, and his eyebrows have grown to the degree of hiding his eyes entirely. Even if he's wearing a classy robe, I can only think of him as a hermit.

『He brings quite the pointless ambiance...』
「*Hoho*, so *you're* the rumored Magic-Sword Girl, eh?」

「Rumored?」
「That's right! Lately, you've become quite the talk, missy. Because of that I immediately recognized ya!」

So rumors have started to spread, huh. Well… There's not much that can be done about us standing out like a sore thumb at this point. Judging by the old man's response, the rumors don't seem to be bad at least.

「I'm Shuuren[E2], and this here reference room is managed by me.」
「Nn.」
「Taking documents outta here is forbidden, but transcribe 'em all you like. A single parchment is 300_{Gorudo}, and you can loan a pen for 30_{Gorudo} per hour.」

Paper is quite expensive… Well, information is valuable in the long run, after all.

After buying one sheet of parchment, we start searching for the desired documents. Since Shuuren showed us where the documents were whenever we asked, finding things was quite easy.

The first thing we looked for was a map of the continent.

Taking a look at it, we're currently in the Jylbard[E3] Continent. Its form seemed close to a caltrop. It's probably around the size of Africa, but that's just conjecture. In the first place, it's questionable whether or not the map is accurate.

The town of Aressa belongs to a Kingdom called Kranzell[E4], and it's located in the Western part of the caltrop-like Jylbard Continent. I didn't know until now, but if you went West for ~5 days from here, you'd probably be able to reach the sea.[M1]

『So, places with Dungeons close to Aressa include… Iluuf[E5] and Urmut[E6].』

Iluuf is in a neighboring country to the North, and belongs to the Belios[E7] Kingdom. If we can't cross the border, then no matter how much we struggle there's no way we'd be able to reach it.

On the other hand, Urmut lays South of Aressa, and also belongs to the Kranzell Kingdom, so there shouldn't be much trouble with entering it.

(Both have dungeons.)
『Iluuf has one C Rank Dungeon.』
(Urmut: two D Rank Dungeons.)

So, do we take quality or quantity? *Hmm*... I personally think that Urmut would be the best choice. There wouldn't be any problems regarding borders, and it's probably best to accumulate experience in lower ranked Dungeons first.

『So, which one?』
(Urmut. Warm up with D Ranks first.)
『I also agree. Then, let's keep researching. This time, let's aim for information regarding the Dungeons of Urmut.』
「Nn.」

After that, we should find the route we'll be taking to get there, and any stops we should take along the way. There appears to be both a land and a sea route, too.

『By sea or by land... Which would be better, I wonder?』
(Land route would be easier.)
『That's true. By the way... Have you ever been on a ship Fran?』
(Once, as a slave. Was kept crammed at the bottom.)

Somehow... I'm sorry. Or rather, that's her only memory of a boat trip! That's no good! No way that can stay like that!

『I-Is that so. Well then, how about this time we enjoy ourselves on the sea route?』

（Enjoy?）
『*Ou*. Traversing the sea on a boat is enjoyable. There're also delicious marine products to be had.』
（… Fish?）
『There'd also be Shrimp, Lobster, Crab, and other shellfish too. There's a great variety.』
（Nn. No choice but the sea route, then.）

So it's for food in the end… Well, with that we've decided in favor of the sea route.

◇◆◇

「N－n…」

Fran stretched out over the table. It seems that her body has gotten stiff from sitting for so long… Probably. We've been in the Reference Room for 2 hours straight, after all.

『Then, the things we should research later would be…』
（Nn. Urmut's delicacies.）
『Well, there's that too, but there are also other things to investigate, you know…』

Passenger fees, planns for our exact route, and so on.

（Right. Those too.）
『… Do you really understand?』
（Can't go without investigating specialities.）
『*Ah*… Oh well.』

[E1] A note on 'Haunts': in Japanese, it's 魔境. That can also be translated to 'Boundary of Demons'. Info on Haunts was introduced in C15, but a tl;dr version is 'they're areas under the control of Demonic Beasts'.
Just restating because C15 was released a while ago.

[E2] ‘シューレン’

[E3] ‘ジルバード’
Note that ‘バード’ is the term commonly used in RPGs as ‘Bard’.

[E4] ‘クランゼル’

[M1] 1 day = 40㎞ usually, as walking speed is ~5㎞ per hour. Then, the time to build/take down camp before/after 12 hours of daylight needs to be taken into account — but ‘5 days’ could be air distance, too. With all this information, maybe I should make a map?

[E5] ‘イルーフ’

[E6] ‘ウルムッド’

[E7] ‘ベリオス’

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 43: What Occurred

We're walking towards the exit of Aressa.

We've taken a simple commission again today while searching for some Demonic Beasts. You could also say that there was nothing else to do besides this.

「Yo! Another commission today?」
「Nn.」

One of the gatekeepers — Dert — calls out to us as we leave. He was the person who admitted us when we first arrived at this town. Thinking about it, we've formed a pretty good relationship with this uncle. We pass by almost every day and Fran stands out, so I suppose it was only a matter of time. He's a nice person. Even to the unsociable Fran, he tries to talk to her every day.

A guardsman showing a different reaction to Fran's unsociable-and-sour impression at first glance would be understandable, but Dert seems a bit soft. Testament to their relationship building, Fran's lowered her guard a little.

「Cute, as always.」

... Isn't this guy just a lolicon?

「That reminds me, are you acquainted with Viscount Alsund?」
「?」
『He's talking about *that* guy. The noble who came complaining to the Guild.』
「*Ah*. Small-Fry Vice Commander.」

To Fran's words, Dert was momentarily astonished before proceeding to laugh.

「*Hahahaha*! Yeah, yeah, that's the one.」
「What about him?」
「*Ah*, for some reason it looks like he's searching for little Fran. It'd be best to be careful. Yesterday, some fellow calling himself the guy's subordinate came here to check if you passed through.」

Hooh. How suspicious.

「Since he's a noble, he does whatever he pleases in the town… Even more, he seems to have a skill to see through lies.」
「I know.」

In reality, he *had* the Skill to see through lies. Now, *I* have that ability.

「So, about that Skill: in the world of nobles it's something of a godsend. Giving its user the ability to grasp their opponent's weakness, and allowing quick dispersion of political opponents… Those guys, telling lies is as easy as breathing for them, after all.」

Mr. Dert, I must say, you're my kind of guy. The type of guy who holds prejudice against nobles!

「Because he has that Skill, even if that Viscount causes trouble his parents crush any complains. And because of that, he got excessively carried away and became prone to doing foolish things. Those actions extend to little Fran as well, so I have no idea what he might want with you.」
「Understood. I'll be careful.」
「Good to hear. Ah, also on the subject of the Viscount, I caught wind of a slightly dangerous rumor.」
「Rumor?」
「Mhm, it's from a few days back. It seems that Viscount Alsund's state has started to become… *Odd*.」
「How so?」
「Well, he abruptly began acting suspiciously. Just when rumors started appearing stating that he might be becoming mentally ill he

committed a terrible fault in the company of Royalty. I don't know the full details, but apparently his family was enraged — there were even talks this was the last time he wouldn't be forsaken. Thereafter, it's just been getting worse and worse. Various rumors like 'he's been cursed' or 'he's been possessed by the Evil God' are flying about.」

Uwaa, and that guy might be stalking us? That's scary.

「Well, anyways. Take care!」
「Nn.」

Our commission today is to harvest New Moon Grass. Since Fran still remembers where it grows, we should be able to complete it no problem. While we're at it, we plan on seeing how the development of the Poisonous Swamp is going. If things go well, we'll find a couple of Demonic Beasts along the way.

◇◆◇

A short time after advancing on the highway, we sensed a couple of presences.

(Teacher.)
『Yeah. We're being followed.』

The number of people tailing us is two. One is amateurish — he isn't hiding his presence or anything. It's completely laid bare.

We slowly change our course off of the highway, and as we do so the presences follow after us. As expected, we're being pursued.

Like that, we advance for a short while into the forest, and allow the presences to close in.

「O-Oy! Stop *right* there!」

From behind, an angry voice is heard. To be lured here unawares... He's truly praise worthy.

「That's... Small-Fry Vice Commander?」
『Viscount Augusto, right?』

So, Dert's warning came true. The one besides him is probably a subordinate or something... But somehow, he doesn't give off the impression of a Knight. Anyways, for Augusto, at first glance you wouldn't be able to know that it was him. It's just to that extent that he's changed.

His cheeks are collapsed inwards, with bloodshot eyes and untidied hair which was falling out at certain points. He was going bald from misery... It's an appearance that wouldn't be out of place in a horror movie as a vengeful ghost. Erm... He didn't become an Undead, right?

Just what happened to him in these 10 days? He was a sickening fellow, sure, but when I see him in this state I end up feeling a bit sympathetic.

「Y... Y—... You!」

Uwaa... He's drawing near...

「I've c-come to take c-compensation f-for... The *r-rudeness* you committed against me in the *G-Guild*!」

That's quite sudden. Without any introductions, he's abruptly started shouting. Since he's doing so after such a transformation, I have a bad hunch.

「Who might you be?」
「W-What? Are you saying that you have... ***F-Forgotten*** myself?!」
「It's our first time meeting.」
「T-Truly? *N-No*, don't lie! There's no way that's–」
「Truly Truly. Mistaken for someone else.」

It seems Fran doesn't want to get involved. Has he really fallen this much? No... That shouldn't be enough to deceive him. Right?

「*Eh*? It's… Truly a misunderstanding? No — it's a lie! A… *Lie*… Right?」
「Not a lie. Truth.」
「*Eh? **Eh?*** It's not a lie after all? It's really not?」

Maybe he's believing it because he's gone a bit loopy? There'd be no way he could believe that otherwise… Will Fran actually get away with this?

That's what I thought, but…

「*Ah*! T-That Sword! A-After all, you *are* the beastgirl from the Guild!?」

Sorry Fran. Because of me, he noticed.

「A-After all, it was a lie, right?! *Shit*… Everybody keeps telling me nothing but lies… !」

You don't say!

「T-That sword, g-give it here!」
「No.」
「*S-**Shut up***! F-filthy Adventurers like you shouldn't defy **N-Nobles**! H-Hand it over!」
「Don't want to.」
「I-I-I'm the one who decides that! Me! Auguste Alsund[i]!」

Augusto clawed the nails of his right hand into head, scratching and tearing away at his skin. Hair quickly falls and blood trickles down his forehead in response. Yet, even with that he doesn't snap out of his eccentric behavior. Now, he's started to scratch his head with *both* hands.

「? Gone mad?」

How troublesome. While consulting Fran about whether we should

flee or kill, his subordinate steps forward.

「Now, now, Sir Auguste. Leave this to me.」
「*Gu-**gununu...***」
「I'll only punish them a bit.」[M1]
「Is t-that so? T-Then I'll leave it to you. *Hihihi.*」

What an unpleasant face to laugh with... Since his mind seems to have snapped, there's just no way to go about fixing him, huh?

「And so: hand over the magic sword. That's an order from the Viscount.」
「No way.」
「*Kukuku*... Rather than resorting to violence, quickly handing it over is better for you, don't you think?」
「T-That's r-right! Gyuran is a master Mercenary!」
「Understand that? If you do, hand over the sword.」
「Not. A. Chance.」
「*Tsk*. Shitty brat, don't get all conceited, a'right! Can't you e'en comprehend th' difference in our abilities?」[M2]

Well, let's just see how strong this gum-flapping Gyuran really is.

Name : Gyuran Age : 34
Race : Blue Cat[E1] Beastman
Job : Mercenary
State : Normal

Status:
Level : 31
HP : 168 MP : 136
STR : 78 END : 81 AGI : 118
INT : 70 MGC : 60 DEX : 81

Skills:
Intimidation : Lv3, Danger Perception : Lv3, Archery : Lv2, Strong Preser

Titles:
None

Equipment:
Illusionary Pyroxene[E2] Magic Sword, Dagger of the Sovereign Serpent,

So-so, I guess? He's not a small fry, but he's not powerful by any means. As a 'master mercenary', he's quite lacking.

「Hm? You... Are you a Black Cat?」
「...」
「My *esteemed* self is from the Blue Cat Tribe. Could it be that you detest me?」
「Blue Cat Tribe: the enemy.」

Fran gives off a strong feeling of hostility as those words leave her mouth.

『Fran? What is going on?』
(Blue Cat Tribe: have lots of slave merchants. Black marketeers as well.)
『Like the ones who caught Fran...?』

This man might also be related to such things. He has Commerce, Threaten and Capture after all.

(Mhm. Around 300 years ago: the Blue Cat Tribe started becoming slave traders. Tricked members of the Black Cat tribe. Made into slaves and sold.)
『'Tricked'?』
(Blue Cat tribe pretended to be friendly, then launched a surprise attack. Many of the Black Cat tribe: caught and sold. Appealed to the King of the Beastmen, but because of status: couldn't receive an audience.)

What a despicable story... I'll remember it. The Blue Cat Tribe

consists of slave traders. Fran's enemy is my enemy. In other words, that guy is my enemy.

「What's with you, finally going silent? Are ya trembling? Well, it's too late now *kahaha*. You'll have to experience a bit of pain: lament your own recklessness! I won't give you any big wounds, though. You'd be unable to be turned into merchandise if I did!」
『He's completely guilty. This fellow is definitely connected to the black market slave dealers.』
（Nn.）

The man drew his blades, both of which were clad in magical power. They seem to be somewhat strong.

Name：Illusionary Pyroxene Magic Sword

ATK：650　MP：200　Durability：600

Magic Power Conductivity・B

Skills:
Illusionary Attack

Name：Dagger of the Sovereign Serpent

ATK：373　MP：100　Durability：700

Magic Power Conductivity・C+

Skills:
Sovereign Toxic Fang

（All over his body: magic tools?）
『Yeah, looks like it.』
（Then, take?）
『Using Dimensional Storage?』

Wouldn't harvesting the opponent's equipment during battle be effective? We'd been thinking so for a while now, — No, actually, we only noticed we could recently.

Originally, we tried various things to test the power of the Dimensional Storage. Tests to see if the passage of time *truly* stopped, or if the temperature *really* didn't change among others. The results of our investigation showed that the raw materials didn't rot, and foods stayed piping hot. After testing regularly, we came to the conclusion that time really stopped.

In the middle of such tests, we suddenly came up with the idea of stealing equipment from opponents. Since we had only been fighting Demonic Beasts there was no chance to try it out, but... The perfect opponent has arrived.

「Oh? You got the guts for it, lil' girl?」

Fran unsheathes me... And Gyuran falls to the ground.

「——Huh?」
「First: bracelets.」
「***AAAAAAAAAAH***!」

Moving to his side in an instant, Gyuran's arms both fall to Fran's feet. On each arm was a magic bracelet.

(Teacher: harvesting went well?)
『Y-Yeah.』

No mercy for enemies, right? Or rather, it seems that her actions are slightly more severe than usual, with a calm anger resonating around her. Towards the screaming Gyuran, Fran's eyes grow dark as she pushes me against the bracelets. With that, Dimensional Storage invoked.

「Sword, too.」

I retrieve the fallen sword without issue. It seems that I can harvest things so long as they're separated from the wielder's hand.

「W-Why?! According to my Skill, she shouldn't be this strong — O-Only my life, plea*aa**aaah!*」

Skills? This guy can talk quite well despite being in such a state... Ah, come to think of it, he had a Pain Reduction Skill. Is it thanks to that? Now, what were his other skills again...? *Ahh*, I see, he was talking about Strong Presence Perception!

Strong Presence Perception
Allows the user to perceive the difference in Levels between themselves a

So, it's because of this Skill that he figured Fran's Level was below his. A member of the Black Cat tribe with a lower level, and a young girl on top of that. In his eyes, there must have been plenty to make light of.

Hmm... Besides Strong Presence Perception, AGI ↑ is a good skill, but... Skill Taker can't be reused in the end. As expected, it's absolutely necessary to think before we use it. Hopefully a good opponent will arrive in front of us while Skill Taker is usable.

「Attempt harvesting again. Armor?」
「*H-Hiii—!*」

Zaku

I jab into the shoulder of the man who is trying to flee by crawling away.

「*I-It huuurts!*」

Even if he has Pain Reduction, there's no way this would remain painless in the end. While thinking so I invoke Dimensional storage, but...

『I can't harvest it. It appears that it's not possible to take anything that the other party is wearing.』

How disappointing. If it was possible, it would have been quite useful during combat.

（Then… If the wielder dies it'll work?）
『Well, that's right, but… I'll do it, so ―』
（Nn-nn. It's alright. I will.）

Uttering so, Fran swings me down without hesitation.

「*Ag―― kahyuu――……*」

With the nape of his neck cut, the sound of air escaping his lungs releases from his lips. As his life fade, he squirms slightly, moving what remains of his arms midair… *And dies.* Not quick enough.

『Are you alright?』
（Would have been experienced eventually. This guy as the first: good luck.）

For having killed a person with her own hands for the first time, she's quite calm. Perhaps it was because he was a bitter enemy of her tribe, or maybe it was because he was a scoundrel?

Well, the Mental Stability Skill might also be showing its effect. It's a skill that lowers the mental hurdle towards killing, so… It's good that she obtained it before this experience.

Anyways, I can rationalize it all I'd like, but it'd be best to ignore it for now. So long as Fran doesn't end up troubled for no reason, then it's fine. I never liked hesitant protagonists anyways. To get depressed every single time they kill an enemy is nothing but irritating.

『Then, let's harvest it at once!』
「Nn.」

『First, the armor!』

Armor, Boots, Dagger, Shield, Gauntlets, Necklace, one by one they get harvested.

「*Hihihihihii!*」

It was uncertain whether it was a laugh or a scream that was raised as Small-Fry Vice Commander Auguste fell on his backside.

「Ri… Ri-Ridiculous! H-He was the hero of the Ruze[E3] War! T-To defeat the slaughterer of a th-thousand men, that s-superhuman, th-this easily…!」

He really was completely fooled… Slaughterer of a thousand men? That's just too laughable. Besides, this Gyuran: a Hero? No way. Anyone with even a *speck* of human intellect could realize that. It's difficult to believe that someone would fall for such a lie.

No, maybe… Is this my fault? Since I stole Law of Lies, has he become unable to distinguish truth from lies?

（Teacher's fault.）
『*Eh*… So it is, after all…』
（Nn. Good job.）
『Ah, you were praising me.』

She's harsh on those she's showed hostility to, as usual.

W-Well, you reap what you sow. It's just his bad luck that he picked a quarrel with us. Right. I'm not at fault. Nope.

「A-And Gyuran's equipment, w-where did it go?! I-I bought t-that as a present — i-it's the highest grade of armor!」

You really were an easy mark, huh. After being inspired with a bunch of lies, you easily opened your wallet. How pitiful.

『Hey, what should we do about him?』
（…… Ignore.）
『*Hmm*. Is that alright?』

For now, I guess we'll just focus on harvesting Gyuran's corpse. If it's left alone, it seem that he could become an undead, after all. It's a bother to have to dispose of it, but it can't be helped.

While we're at it, I take the ~20,000 Gorudo he had on him, too. Can't let anything go to waste, right?

Now, how should we deal with Auguste… Arrest him? Kill him? Ignore him? Brainwash him?

While being troubled about how to approach the issue, a new presence appeared, closing in on our location.

（Teacher…!）
『*Ah*, it's got quite the amount of magical power. It might just reach Threat Level D! Be careful!』
「Nn!」

[M1] Just a note: when the subordinate said 'me' they used 'Watakushi' which is a strangely formal way of addressing oneself — probably used for a self-important and/or cool effect. When they say 'I' they use 'ore' (俺 – masculine way of addressing oneself), and continue using 'ore' from that point on.

[M2] For this line, he essentially lost his cool and talked slurringly — like a small time Gangster.

[E1] 'Blue Cats' aren't *actually* 'Blue', in case you didn't know. The name belongs to these types of cats.

[E2] Pyroxene.

[E3] 'ルーズ'. It should be something like 'Careless' in translation, but

it sounds like ‘Ruze’ when vocalized by a word→sound translator so I went with that for the sake of irony.

[i] The Author spelt Auguste’s last name slightly different here than he did last time.
Previous ‘Alsund’: ‘アルサンド’
This ‘Alsund’: ‘アレサンド’

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 44: After What Occurred

Mllhild:
I've got to apologize to Ensig and the readers. I had so much free time and just kept procrastinating until I noticed that Monday had already passed. I will try to manage my time better to prevent that from happening again.

※※※

(Teacher...!)
『Ah, it's got quite the amount of magical power. It might just reach Threat Level D! Be careful!』
「Nn!」

Despite my approximation, whatever's approaching has a *peculiar* magical power. It's not the same as a Demonic Beast's, Human's, or... Well, *anything's*. Really, it's quite a strange magic power.

And that enigmatic presence is coming towards us at frightening speed. Perhaps it's aiming at Fran? No, the idiot Viscount still counts as a Noble, so maybe he's the target?

Well, anyway, this is no time to be careless.

「W-Why is your sword still drawn?! D-Do you intend to kill me?!」

For some reason Auguste is being noisy. Thinking about it, it'd be bothersome if he became a hindrance during the fight, so let's have him be quiet for now. Lv3 Dark Magic:『Mind・Lost』. It's a spell that steals the target's consciousness, causing them to faint. My guess is that this guy won't have any resistance.

「Ah.....?」

thmp

Moving the collapsed Viscount to the side, we remain waiting for a few tens of seconds, and what showed itself was a strange half-translucent thing. How to describe it… It's like a water sphere that keeps winding and changing its form while floating in the air.

「Miss Fran, you haven't killed him, right?」
「?」

Suddenly, it started talking. Wait, it's not guaranteed that it's *actually* talking, as there isn't any evidence of it having a mouth — let alone a face. Still, I *think* that it's talking. Its voice seems familiar, too.

「Guild Master?」
「That's right. Ah, is this your first time seeing one of these? This is one of the kinds of Spirits I use. Please, be at ease.」
「Spirit… First time seeing one.」

It's also my first time coming across something like this. How should I say this… It's a bit different from what I imagined. I had thought that Spirits would have a more humanoid appearance — something like a Sylph or an Undine.

It seems Fran was thinking along similar lines.

「Somehow, strange」
「What is strange! To call it strange… This child is an Intermediate level Spirit, therefore is has no human appearance. However, this child is also cute by all means you know!]
「Cuter ones: better.」
「The ones with humanoid appearances are Superior Spirits. There is no *way* someone would summon such a being for anything other than combat.」

Ah, so Spirits with humanoid appearance are Superior Spirits. Furthermore, the Guild Master is able to summon ones like that. This one's only an Intermediate level, but it already has a lot of

magical power, so just how powerful would a superior one be, I wonder?

If he can have several Spirits summoned simultaneously, then he's quite the force to be reckoned with... The Guild Master is already tremendously strong all by himself, so with the addition of Spirits, wouldn't it be a bit out of hand? Well, I guess that's to be expected from a Guild Master.

「What did you want?」
「Oops, that's right. I received information that Viscount Auguste left the town chasing after you.」

That only just happened... He has some pretty good ears.

「The gatekeeper, Sir Dert, kindly notified me. It was something along the lines of 'Viscount Auguste went out chasing after her, will she be alright?'.」

Dert, I'm sorry for having thought that you might be a lolicon. You were just a good person.

「Nn. He appeared.」
「As I thought! An appeal to the Guild came in about securing the Viscount behind the scenes. You didn't kill him, right? Right? Erm, maybe you *accidentally* killed him? That sure would be troublesome!」
「Didn't kill.」
「R-Really? Good! Then, I'd like to take him off your hands. Of course, you won't be handing him over for free.」
「Okay.」
「Really? Thank you! Well then, I will immediately make my way towards your location, so could you guard him for the time being?」
「Nn.」
「Then, excuse me!」

At with the Guild Master's words, the Spirit's figure disappeared. It

seems that it was used in place of a messenger.

10 minutes later, the figure of the Guild Master appeared. Pretty fast. Seem like he put quite a bit of effort into coming out here.

「Miss Fran, thank you for waiting.」
「Nn.」
「Viscount Augusto is… Ah, there he is. Hey, over here.」

The Adventurers the Guild Master brought along lifted the Viscount up and carried him off.

「Where will he go?」
「Ah, to the source of the request: Count Olmës[E1].」

That's a name I haven't heard yet. Who is he?

「Count Olmës is Viscounts Auguste's esteemed father.」
「Father detaining his child?」
「Yes. I would like this to remain between just us, but from the start Viscount Auguste had a problematic personality. Still, for the sake of possessing the Law of Lies Skill, Count Olmës didn't punish him, but instead used him.」
「Nn.」
「However… A few days ago, the Skill suddenly vanished. The reason is unknown, as it's quite an unusual situation. Well, it's possible that because he only used his Skill for worthless things, one of the Gods punished him.」

Hmmmm, he was given a punishment alright. Therefore, it'd be fine to be seen like that.

「Anyways, how he ended up after losing the Skill left even me astonished. He was the type to use the Skill to distinguish truth from lies with whoever he met, so when it was lost, it appears he became unable to trust anyone anymore.」

I see. If a Skill you had since birth was lost, then what would become of you? In his case, he became distrustful of other humans. Well, it wasn't that simple, of course. It was more along the lines of completely breaking.

I had only thought that I obtained a convenient Skill, but… I should refrain from using it as much as possible. I don't want to become like the foolish viscount. Thinking that I'd be alright so long as I had that Skill… I'm not special enough for something like that to become reality.

「A few days prior to the discovery he also caused problems towards members of the Royal House, who were visiting for an inspection. Disregarding all semblances of etiquette, he grabbed at them and started shouting not to tell lies in front of an audience.」

Uwaa… That's terrible. No, wait… We also stole the Court Etiquette Skill, didn't we? Did that also…?

「And, while under house arrest, he slipped out of his room and hid himself. On that occasion, it seems that he took quite the sum of money with him… Most of it, he apparently used. We tracked his spending all the way to the place he bought some expensive armor.」

In all likelihood, that was done under the influence of Gyuran. Then, after catching Fran he intended to abandon Aressa and escape… As if this idiotic noble would be able to pull that off.

「In Count Olmës case, he doesn't want this ordeal to breed a large commotion. And so, before Viscount Auguste caused any more uproars, he came requesting to have him secured in secret.]
「Secret?」
「Correct. This is my personal opinion, but I believe he's concealed the fact that his son lost the Skill and plans to make use of it in some way. Whether he plans on directly manipulating him, or perhaps plans on using some manner of medical treatment to get the Skill back remains to be seen, but… For the time being, he wants to

restrain the Viscount. And so, as to prevent the exposure of this incident, the Count wanted to proceed with the highest possible degree of secrecy. It's something along this lines.」

Hm Hmm... So in other words... Hush money has been prepared?

「*Jii—*[M1]」
「..... Don't stare so much. You have the privilege of having this treated as an accomplished commission with a bonus properly added on top.」
「Nn. Of course.」
「In exchange... You already know, right?」
「Mouth: sealed.」

Towards the suddenly nodding, seemingly self-confident Fran the Guild Master directed a strangely uneasy gaze.

「*Haa*. Truly, I beg of you: keep it a secret. The other party is a powerful Noble after all. If he's angered various troubles are sure to follow.」

We also want to be spared from being dragged into the family troubles of Nobility. Even if we weren't asked, there's no way we'd go around spreading rumors.

「Well, in regards to the Viscount's personal effects I was told there was no need to recover them, so don't worry.」

It seems that it's been concluded that we plundered the equipment alongside and a large sum of money. Er, it's a bit different, you know?

... It seems our debt towards the Guild Master has increased.

Afterwards, we made the decision to keep Fran's name from the Count. For such a powerful Noble, I doubt he'd have interest in the name of a commoner. It'd be really unlikely, right? Still, this is just

in case.

By the way, the commission fee alongside the hush money added up to 200,000$_{\text{Gorudo}}$, so all of a sudden our money doubled.

As one would expect of a Noble's commission. Their sense of money must be strange indeed.

[E1] オルメス

[M1] The sound effect for staring intensely.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 45: Return of the A Rank

We've gone to the Guild again today.

In the last few days a lot has happened, but the unchanging days have started up again. Frankly, there's not enough excitement. If there were good commissions it'd be alright, but… Well, you know.

『There are only Rank C requests with a large amount of working hours…』
（Again: medical plants gathering?）
『I've also had enough of that, you know~?』

There's still a whole week before we receive the armor from old man Gallus. In the meantime, what should we — hm?

As Fran opens the door to the Guild, we find it unusually noisy on the inside.

「Nell. What happened?」
「Right, Fran doesn't know. I wonder if you haven't met yet?」
「?」
「Well, after finishing the investigation of Maokami Plains, the Rank A and B Adventurers have returned.」
「There're Rank A's?」
「Yep. In our guild, there's a single Rank A Adventurer, and 10 B's. Around one month ago they left for the investigation of the Maokami Plains. Other than them, no less than 15 people of Rank C to F accompanied them to gain experience. It's thanks to that the Goblin Subjugation became a big deal.]

Indeed. If there had been A and B Rank Adventurers then the situation could have been settled far easier. In fact, there'd be a high chance that a few elite would have been picked out to capture it.

However, in that case we wouldn't have been able to bring down the

Demon, so for us having them return now rather than then was lucky.

『And I had thought that Donna was the strongest…』
「Nn.」
「What's the matter?」
「Donna wasn't strongest.」
「Mr. Donnadorondo is skilled at teaching, so he holds the teaching position. In addition, if he had continued to serve in active duty he certainly would have been B Rank by now, you know? However, saying that he wanted to commit himself to the next generation, he became an instructor. It's already been 15 years since he took that position, so over half of Aressa's B and C ranks were taught by him, you know? Because of that, most Adventurers listen to Mr. Donnadorondo.」

It was also for that connection that Donna was at the front line of the Goblin Subjugation.

「The A Rank too?」
「Ahh, that person[M1] is different. Or rather… That person listens to no one. Honestly, their personality is so overbearing that they're difficult to handle, you know?」
「My, my… Nell, are you speaking ill of me behind my back?」
「*Kya*—! Amanda! Don't draw near while erasing your presence! It's because you do stuff like that I said you're difficult to handle!」
「*Ufufu*~ It's good being hard to handle you know? I'm not a dog for running errands after all.」

Their words are harsh, but smiles are floating on both of their faces. Their relationship is good enough to freely bad mouth each other, I guess.

But anyways, she's quite the beautiful woman. A slight Japanese-like air drifts about her black hair cut at the shoulders. She's a gentle and tender type of beauty. Her voice also floats with a gentle feeling, ringing pleasantly in the ears.

However… The feeling I have after hearing her conversation is that her character is fairly stubborn.

「Let me introduce you, Fran. This is Amanda, our A Rank Adventurer as well as our ace. Well, she isn't a bad person, and she's fond of children. At any rate, her title is–」
「*Wah–!* Stop it, Nell! That's embarrassing!」
「Why? It's the *perfect* title for you.」
「Oh, buzz off! — *Ohohoho*. Sorry for showing you something unsightly. It's nice to meet you, little miss. I'm Amanda.」
「Nn. Fran.」
「Amazing… To be so capable at such a young age… You're quite promising~」
「Do you see, Amanda?」
「Naturally.」

That's an A Rank Adventurer for you. To see through our strength after only looking at us a little. It doesn't seem to be an Appraisal type Skill, however. Perhaps it's simply her own ability built up through experience?

Name: Amanda Age: 58
Race: Half-Elf
Job: Champion of Storms
State: Normal

Status:
Level: 70
HP: 646 MP: 825
STR: 327 END: 293 AGI: 451
INT: 390 MGC: 423 DEX: 356

Skills:
Coercion Lv7, Chant Shortening Lv6, Stealth Lv8, Dismantling Lv8, Fire

Unique Skills:
Grace of the Spirits

Tiles:
Orc Slayer, Guardian of Children, Giant Slayer, Dungeon Conqueror, De

Equipment:
Magical Whip of the Heavenly Dragon's Whiskers[M2], Full-Body Leather

The title, 'Guardian of Children', must have been what Nell was alluding to. Is it a Title given to ones who like children, or…?

Well, anyways, she's *strong*. I was astonished when I saw the Guild Master and Donna, but Amanda is on another level. Frankly, she's quite terrifying. That is, this person could even go hunting for Demons.

There's no point in going against her. No matter what manner of surprise attacks are set up, I just can't see us claiming victory.

『She's dangerous. *Never* go against her.』
(Nn. Sure.)
「The story of being the one to raise Ranks fastest since the founding of the guild, of course I've heard about it. A tiny, terribly cute, beautiful beastman Girl wielding a Magic Sword!」

Eh? I'm happy that Fran is being praised, but… Wasn't there a bit too many references to her appearance? Who on earth described her like that! Where's the bastard that looked at Fran with dirty eyes?!

「But, despite that the Guild Master said to not be careless. He said that if you're fooled by her appearance then you're in for a painful experience.」

Oi, Guild Master! What are you saying to an A rank adventurer?! — Well, if the Guild Master went「Fran-chan, CUTE〜」it would probably be worse.

「Ah, right. Fran. The Guild Master was calling for you.」

「He was? Fine if I go to the room?」
「Please, if you could?」
「Nn.」
「My, what a shame. I wanted to take her to eat, but with the Guild Master as my opponent, I'll give up.」
「Bye bye.」
「*Kyaa~* cute~ I want a little sister like you!」
「Amanda, just how old do you think you are? You're mistaking 'sister' with 'daughter', don't you think」
「***Ne~ll~?*** Just because you're a bit young, there are good things and bad things to say, you know? Besides Half-Elves age slowly!」
「Yes, yes. Right. Amanda is still young.」

They get along really well. Leaving behind Nell and Amanda messing around, Fran moves towards the Guild Master's office.

◇◆◇

*Gan***Gan***Gan**[M3]

「Hey! Who is it! Such rude knocking!」

Gacha

「Came.」
「Ah, it was Miss Fran. How should I say this… If you enter before admission is accepted from the inside, then there's no point in knocking.」
「Shocked.」
「*Haa*… Please be more careful next time.」

Sorry, Guild Master. I will firmly educate her.

「Called: why?」
「To be frank, there's a commission I earnestly want you to accept.」

A request from the Guild Master? There's no way *not* to have a bad

premonition, but still.

「There're voices coming from in and outside the Guild holding your ability in question. Of course, I know that they're unjustified, but from the perspective of someone who doesn't know you personally there is no way for them to believe in your abilities. And so, to quiet those voices, won't you take on a certain request?」

No no, the one who went around raising our Rank at his own convenience was *you*, you know? And now, you come to us with this?

「Ranked by you arbitrarily.」
「Well, it hurts if you say it like that, but… Listen, there are more jealous folks sprouting up than expected. Furthermore, there are also voices advocating *for* you, which makes the situation grow worse. There are many rank D and C Rank Adventurers that have recognized you, understanding your power from experience on the field. It's beginning to seem as though you're popular because you're a mascot.」

Adventurers from the intermediate level and above growing to respect her were expected, but… To think she was also being seen as a mascot…

「Among the lower ranked Adventurers, many don't approve. There are also those who still haven't been able to ascend from Rank E for a long time, so after seeing you being raised to rank D so easily, too many have gotten jealous.」
「Leave them be.」
「I would also like to leave it at that, but I simply can't anymore. Some among them are spreading unfounded rumors like you bought your Rank with money, or that I have preferences for little girls and have been charmed by you.」

For some reason, he's begun muttering complaints.

「There is no way that I prefer little girls! Good grief, spare me *please*. To begin with I prefer ——」

This guy… Could it be that he just doesn't like being called a lolicon, so he brought this up?

「Accepting: not compulsory?」
「Now, now. If you say it like that, then there would be several bonuses attached, right?. Please, just hear me out at least.」

He's desperate. Really, it only feels like he wants to deny the suspicions of him being a lolicon.

「The bonus added onto the commission fee is obvious, but there'll also be an entrance permit for the Dungeon of the town of Urmut issued.」
「…… How did you know?」
「Well, if you request documents related to it in the Reference Room, even if you don't want me to know I'll end up knowing about it. For admission to the Dungeon your Adventurer Rank is certainly sufficient, but with that alone permission won't be granted. In all likelihood, the person deciding will place their judgement — with the possibility of rejection — on the spot.」

Is that so… And for a lone, cute little beastkin girl, there's definitely a chance we won't pass. Furthermore, even if she does pass the process might take a while.

「If you have a permit, examinations are unneeded. You can immediately dive into the Dungeon.」

And, as a result, save time. *Tsk*, this clever Elf. He knows quite a bit about us, huh.

「… For now: I'll hear you out.」
「Thank you very much. Well then, the commission is this one.」

Essentially, the commission is an investigation request for the

Dungeon in Aressa.

「A Dungeon in Aressa? First time heard about it.」
「It's a dungeon that has already been captured, but it's usually not open to the public. Every few months, the Guild carries out a survey.」
「Captured, yet: investigation?」
「The Dungeon Core is still in one piece, after all. If you have the core, then a small amount of manipulation is possible… It's only to the degree of being able to spawn certain Demonic Beasts using the spawning settings, and creating items though. In addition, those can only be made so long as they're within the range of the Core's magical power. Because of all that, Aressa's Dungeon is limited to the production of Demonic Beast with at most Rank F, alongside only a handful of items.」

With that, it isn't profitable at all. Were it possible to simply create high-level Potions or Demonic Beast with rare ingredients, then it would give birth to amazing profits.

「And if the Core amasses a lot of magical power?」
「If that was possible then we wouldn't have to go through so many hardships. We had assembled several dozens of human magicians to channeled their power into the core, but even with that there wasn't much change.」
「Then, how does it store magical power?」
「The core drains it from veins within the ground, the atmosphere, and apparently from any Demonic Beasts and Adventurers inside of the Dungeon. In addition, even if it isn't much, Dungeon Masters have other means of filling it with magical power. Otherwise, the maintenance of the labyrinth would be impossible」

Vast amounts of magical power should be necessary to summon things like a Demon normally, after all.

「Therefore, it's important for Demonic Beasts to inhabit the dungeon. If they don't, then magical power isn't accumulated, and

to a certain degree the Core can't do its work. As for Aressa's dungeon, it's set up to generate items at periodic intervals. The request also includes the retrieval of those.」
「Subjugating the Demonic Beasts: alright?」
「It doesn't matter. They'd multiply again soon enough. Rather, thinning them out so they don't become too numerous is also part of the job. If left alone for too long, evolutions might occur… And that would be dangerous.」

The completion fee is quite good, too. There's just one problem, though. That is, in the details 「For several Parties」 is written. To work together with idiots like the ones who attacked us: no thank you.

「Ah, in regards to the parties, arrangements have already been made.」
「What types of people?」
「This commission serves simultaneously as a Rank Up examination to Rank D, so at present 9 Rank E adventurers are divided into 2 Parties, and a 3-person Rank C Party serves as the examiner. I can pledge for their background, but for their nature… You'll have to confirm for yourself.」

I'd hate to cast the request away, but… What shall we do? We're fine even if we don't take it, after all.

「Next, in the case you accept the commission I would need to receive a written Oath.」
「Written Oath?」
「Oath Magic[E1] makes it possible to bind a target through a written pledge.」
「Like a Contract?」
「Yes. However, in contrast to a Contract which is from one person to another, a written vow is able bind several. In exchange, the bond is frail.」
「Hm.」
「The content of the vow would be barring the disclosure of the

request's contents. In the case this Oath is violated, your Guild Card would contain a remark about your violation. At worst, measures of decreasing one's Rank, or even Expulsion would occur.」

Oath Magic, huh? Somehow, it gives me a bad feeling. Binding someone through magic, no matter what it's for, reminds me of slavery.

『Fran. What now?』
「Nn—?」

When Fran showed a troubled expression the Guild Master, somewhat panicked, placed a small bag on the table.

「Now, now. I put a personal bonus for you as well, so…」

Hmm. A personal bonus from the guild master, huh? From that we can expect something, but…

「Please, take a look.」

As he turns the bag upside down, around 20 magic stones roll out.

「These are?」
「Something like my secret savings. They are magic stones I obtained while I was still in active duty, and each one of them is from a Demonic Beast of Threat Level D or above.」

So it seems. Selling the magic stones would be fine, but they can also be used for producing armor. In other words, this reward is better than gold.

Still, the Guild Master's eyes seem as though they're probing for something… Did he realize that we desired magical stones? Fran doesn't sell her magic stones, so perhaps he's begun suspecting us of something based off of that?

「Why magic stones?」

「Well? Are they to your liking?」

If anything imprudent is said here, I have a hunch that our side will gain the disadvantage. Of course, even if it's exposed that we desire magic stones, the purpose will still be unknown. With that in mind, we ought to finish it here.

「Not bad.」
「Right?」
(How about Teacher?)
『I'm sorry to say, but I don't know what Skills they hold. At best, I'm able to know which Demonic Beasts they're from. The extent of their magic power is also hard to guess.』

Even so, the ones the Guild Master placed in front of us are certainly good magic stones. Threat Level D was on the same level as the Blast Tortoise and the Doppel Snake, after all. Still, to compulsorily undergo Oath Magic is a bit...

「From these, I will present you with whichever two you'd like. How about that?」
「Hmm... For ten: I'll accept.」
「Wha– As you would expect, that is–! Three!」
「Nine.」
「Hey, that will go on with 4, 8, 5, 7 and in the end, won't this pattern raise it to 6?! No way! Four stones. I won't yield more than that.」
「Then: decline.」
「*Gu...*」
「Five. Paid in advance.」
「*Mumu...*」「*Good bye.*」
「*A-Alright.....!*」

Oh, good job Fran! To corner this Guild Master!

「*In exchange for them, I'll be counting on you for afore-mentioned matter.*」

「*Nn.*」
「*I've heard all about it!*」

Without warning, the door is flung open and Amanda storms into the room. The same entrance pattern as Auguste. Is the security of this room even remotely alright? Even as a joke, it's still supposed to be the Guild Master's room.

But, well, that's an A Rank Adventurer for you. I couldn't feel her presence at all.

「*Let me borrow this for a moment!*」

Amanda quickly snapped the documents the Guild Master placed in front of him and started reading. What an audacious woman! And yet, even with her attitude, the Guild Master isn't saying anything.

「*I thought so! For the accompanying Adventurers... Won't there only be men?!*」

Well, there's no helping it. Even if you say that there aren't any girls coming along, it's only because there are so few female Adventures. The ratio is around 20 to 1, I think? If you consider that, then it's not strange for there to be no woman among the 12 people coming along.

「*Among males reeking of sweat, the cute little Fran would be all alone... There's no way I could permit such a thing! Therefore, I will be going with her on this commission!*」
「*No. Furthermore, there is already someone with a suitable Rank that will be acting as–*」
「*I will be going with her!*」
「*..... I understand.*」

To talk down to the Guild Master with such vigor... The Guild Master probably noticed that no matter what he said, it would

have been useless.

「*Miss Fran, are you also alright with that?*」
「*Nn. No problem.*」

[M1] Nell is almost talking down on the A rank (through the use of negative connotation mostly).

[M2] The same material used in the wires of Akame ga Kill.

[M3] The sound of hitting the door. Yep: hitting, not knocking.

[E1] Remember: there's Contract Magic (契約魔術) and Oath Magic (誓約魔術), but they're not the same.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 46: Introductions

Ensig:
Just a note: Mllhild has stepped down as the Translator for Sword-shisho. That being the case, it's back to just me with sporadic releases. Best regards (again).

※※※

It's been one hour since we received the request from the Guild Master.

We've returned to the inn.

『Then, shall I absorb the Magic Stones?』
「Nn.」
『I wonder what kind of Skills we'll get…』
「Excited.」
『Thinking about it, this is a bit like a grab-bag[1], huh.』
「Grab-bag?」
『Ahh, how should I put it… A grab-bag is a bag filled with hopes, dreams, and a bit of despair.』
「Somehow: amazing.」
『Many brave men have challenged such bags for items of favor, only to meet a terrible fate.』
「Has Teacher seen one before?」
『Well…』
「Amazing!」

Well, before I make a fool out of myself, let's use absorb the magic stone.

Thanks to Demonic Beast Knowledge, I can see the stones' Ranks just fine. With 5 stones total, 3 are D Rank, and 2 are C Rank.

The D Ranks come from a **Fortress Hermit Crab**, a **Sea Lion**,

and a **Trident Shark**. I had chosen Demonic Beasts of the sea since we hadn't actually seen the ocean yet.

As for the 2 C Rank magic stones, one is from a **Red Colossus**, and one is from an **Old Yeti**.

「First: D Rank.」
『*Mhh!* Here we go!』

Fortress Hermit Crab Magic Stone Status: 39
Hunger Resistance: Lv1, Water Pressure Resistance: Lv1, Underwater Res

Sea Lion Magic Stone Status: 79
Swimming: Lv1, Current Manipulation: Lv1, Water Bullet Discharge: Lv1

Trident Shark Magic Stone Status: 43
Underwater Acoustics: Lv1, Current Jet: Lv1, Watersports[2]: Lv1

We obtained quite the variety. We've attained an extensive set of water-based Skills, just as planned. Next is the well-awaited C Rank stones.

「*Ha!*」

The Magic Stone thrown into the sky by Fran is cut in two through in one stroke by me. *Uo*—, it came, it came! After a long time, the sense of absorbing big-game has come!

Red Colossus Magic Stone Status: 196
Frenzy: Lv1, Heat Resistance: Lv1, Weight Increase, STR ↑

Old Yeti Magic Stone Status: 127
Cold Resistance: Lv1, Poison Knowledge: Lv1, Ice Resistance: Lv1, INT ↑ I

With these, a long-awaited Rank Up will occur! Prior to absorbing the 5 stones, my status looked like this:

ATK: 434 Retained MP: 2050/2050 Durability: 1850/1850

Magical Power Conductivity・A

Skills:
Self-Evolution〈Rank 8・Magic Stone Status: 3146/3600・Memory: 70・Po

And now, it's like this:

Name：Teacher
Equipment Registration：Fran
Race：Intelligent Weapon

ATK：478　Retained MP：2500/2500　Durability：2300/2300
Magical Power Conductivity・A

Skills:
Self-Evolution〈Rank 9・Magic Stone Status: 3630/4500・Memory: 79・Po

Alright, alright! With this, I can tweak my Skills yet again. This time, Superior Skills are the things on my mind. I couldn't afford to tamper with it before, but I'd like to make use of it.

And so, my eyes are fixed on Sword Arts LvMax. When I make it a Superior Skill, will it simply become Master Sword Arts, or will it become a completely unknown Skill? If it does become Master Sword Arts not much will change in terms of sword-fighting, but what would happen to Sword Techniques? If its supporting skill Sword Arts disappears, would Sword Techniques even be usable? Or, because I have Master Sword Arts, would it work without an issue?

The chance to find out has arrived. Even if the worst occurs, there're many Goblins that carry Sword Arts, and with Self-Evolution Points, bringing it back to LvMax isn't really an issue.

『During this commission, we should be able to secure a magic stone from a Sword Arts carrier!』
「*Ooh*ー」

◇◆◇

It's been two days since that was said. We've once again returned to the Adventurers Guild.

「Now then, let's take this chance to introduce ourselves. My name is Cruz. I'm the leader of the C Rank party『Azure Guard』to which these two, Rigg and Izel, are members of. For this commission, I'll be acting as your instructor as well as your examiner.」

Name : Cruz Liuzel　Age : 28
Race : Human
Job : Blink Swordsman
State : Normal

Status:　Level : 33
HP : 256　MP : 175　STR : 113　END : 119　AGI : 178　INT : 80　MGC : 91　DE

Skills:
Malice Perception : Lv3, Stealth : Lv2, Evasion : Lv5, Court Etiquette : Lv3,

Titles:
Righteous

Equipment:
Mithril Longsword of Flame, Light-Silver Steel Armor, Light-Silver Steel

He's an Ikemen. A blonde-haired Ikemen. An Ikemen that's C Rank despite his young age, and judging by his white-and-shiny equipment he's probably loaded. Furthermore, he has a family name, meaning he probably comes from an aristocratic home. His very facial features seem to emanate a feeling of nobility. Undoubtedly, this man is popular! *Tch!*

Aside from that, he has the Righteous Title. With that in mind, he doesn't seem like a bad person... So I'll refrain from cursing him for now. If he goes after Fran, it'll be an instant death, however!

「I use the Sword as my weapon. Please treat me well.」

Although the abilities between C Ranks should be roughly equivalent, he's weaker than Donna. Or rather, I should probably see Donna as top-class among C Ranks.

In terms of Status, his two comrades are similar to him. Rigg is a user of Water Magic, while Izel seems to be something like a Scout-oriented Thief. Although they give off completely different feelings than Cruz, their relationship seems to be good. They must have been picked quite skillfully.

「From the E Rank party『Roar of the Dragon』, m' name's Clad: the leader. My forté is the Spear. With us 'ere, this Dungeon exploration'll be finished in no time!」

Clad has spiky gray hair and suntanned skin, and behind him several Yankee-like youths raise their voices. His height is most likely more than 180_{cm}.

Name: Clad Age: 23
Race: Human
Job: Warrior
State: Normal

Status: Level: 20
HP: 127 MP: 97 STR: 67 END: 56 AGI: 47 INT: 50 MGC: 46 DEX:

Skills:
Transportation: Lv2, Balancing Act: Lv4, Danger Perception: Lv3, Hunge

Titles:
None

Equipment:
High-Quality Steel Spear, Plate Armor of the Rock Ox, Vambraces of the

It seems that the condition to raise to Rank D is only whether or not you can use Techniques, so while he's not particularly strong, Rank E's should be at about his skill level. As for the four other members of his party, they have similar Spear-related skills. There doesn't seem to be a lot of flexibility, but they're probably strong when working together. Or… That's the impression I have, anyways.

From what I've seen, Rank C's are usually around Level 35, Rank D's are about Level 25, Rank E's are around Level 15, and Rank F's are only about Level 10; Rank G's are even lower. That's more or less how the ranks' level-zones are.

There *are* exceptions to that, however. For example, the former Mercenaries that picked a fight with Fran and were exterminated. Their levels were ~15, but their abilities didn't match up. Judging by their low Skill levels, they likely power-leveled just to seem strong.

Viscount Auguste is a similar case. Even though he was Level 30 — about Rank C in equivalency — he would probably lose against an E Rank in a fight.

In that respect, Clad is quite good. His status is definitely one that would allow him to step foot into the grounds of Rank D.

That being said, his personality doesn't seem to be all that great. He's been looking at Fran all this time, so chances are he thinks that the lovely little Fran is out of her mind for participating.

「I'm Frion, leader of the E Rank party:『Eyes of the Forest』. I'm not very good with weapons, but I can use Spirit Magic to compensate.」

A blond, thin-eyed Elf. There's no other way to describe him. He seems a bit younger than the Guild Master.

Name : Frion Age : 49
Race : Wood Elf
Job : Spirit User

State : Normal

Status Level : 26
HP : 71 MP : 233 STR : 36 END : 34 AGI : 60 INT : 91 MGC : 111 DEX :

Skills:
Archery : Lv1, Harvesting : Lv2, Cultivation : Lv4, Evil Perception : Lv3, Nat

Equipment:
Cane of the Black Speckled Elm, Breastplate of the Red Monkey, Clothes

He's a Wood Elf: same as the Guild Master. His Skill configuration is also similar. The only difference is that he's not strong, huh? I think that Clad's overall strength is higher. In particular, his peculiar pro-magic build seemingly characteristic to the Elves isn't that eye-opening.

As for his companions, there're two Warriors and one person with the configuration of a Ranger. It's pretty well-balanced.

「Then I guess I'm next? I'm Amanda. Best regards.」

Without mentioning her Rank, she gives a brief greeting. However, just that was enough. The only Adventurer that didn't know of her would have been Fran a couple of days ago, after all.

The Rank E's are too shocked for words. That an A Rank would take on a Rank D request is unprecedented; she sticks out like a sore thumb.

Only Clad seems capable of forming his words.

「I see how it is...」
「What do you mean?」
「I mean that I know th' reason an A Rank like *you*'d take on such a low-rank request! This commission's probably just somethin' you took in your spare time, right?! We had to seriously prepare

ourselves, y'know?! This isn't where you should be playing around!」

Uwa— He said it right to her face, huh. Well, I can see that he's only pretending to be tough given by his stiff expression though. Maybe he's at the age where he's compelled to pick fights with the strong?

「I have no intention of simply playing around though? Besides, I have permission from the Guild Master.」
「*Tsk*」
「Now, now. Then, the young lady next please.」

Cruz diverts the conversation to bring a change to the bad air starting to develop. With the selfish Amanda and the seemingly-strong Clad, he has good reason to worry about the situation. This has definitely surpassed the duties of an examiner. My condolences.

「Fran.」
「..... That's all? Is there anything else?」
「Rank D. Beastman. Favorite thing: **Curry**. Don't particularly dislike anything.」

Clad, your gaze is scary. He doesn't really seem to like Fran. She's a newly-raised Rank D, so it's possible that he can't permit such a young girl being ranked higher than himself.

「No, that's not... I was meaning your weapon choice or the like...」
「*Oi,* ***brat***. I said it before, but we're going at this mission ***seriously***. If y'think this'll just be a simple excursion, then it's better for you to go back home and suck your mom's teat 'nstead!」

We—ll, you certainly like picking fights, huh Clad? Even though you're a Human, you seem more like a mad dog. Moreover, he's even using his Threatening Skill. His intention to make her cry is clear, but... Well, things like that don't work on Fran at all.

「Mother's dead.」
「..... *Tsk*.」

Mhm. Those words hit the hardest, huh. If he could retort to even that, his identity as a Human would seriously be doubted. In addition, he would've needed to do so under the bloodthirsty gaze that Amanda's giving off.

「For an adult to shout at a child! Seriously… Are you alright, Fran?」
「Nn. No problem.」

Such a threat was only at the level of a puppy yapping away when compared to the feeling of intimidation given off from a *devil*. Hopefully, my implied meaning in those words is understood. Anyways, Clad returns with provocation. His aim isn't Fran, though.

「***You—!*** Wadda ya mean by that? *Aah?*」
「*Err—* Then, because the self-introductions are over, I'll move on to the briefing.」

Wanting to avoid any more turmoil, Cruz forcibly ends the conversation. Hang in there, Cruz. I have no means of helping you, but because the above-mentioned dispute has happened early on, do your best. It's a good opportunity, probably!

「*Please*, attempt to be friends for the duration of the request.」
「*Fu—*」
「*Ke*」
「No problem. Good friends.」
「I sincerely hope that's the case…!」

After crying so in desperation, Cruz moved onto the briefing.

「The request consists of the investigation of Aressa's Dungeon: 『Cobweb』which has already been conquered. In addition, we are to recover the Magic Ore that's being generated by the Dungeon at the same time.」

The Dungeon consists of six layers, and its inhabitants mainly consist of insect-type Demonic Beasts. In particular, the 5th and 6th

layers are essentially Spider Demonic Beast nests, and their numbers are no laughing matter.

「Because the Magic Ore is generated in the Dungeon Core Room, it's necessary to make our way there.」
「So we're to collect Magic Ore, then.」
「*Ah*, 'bout the Demonic Beasts, can we take 'em down? They're bein' allowed to live there on purpose, right? 」
「*Ahh*, there's no problem. Reducing the number of Demonic Beasts is also part of the request to a certain extent.」
「*Hehehe*. I'm lookin' forward to it.」

Spider-type Demonic Beasts by the name of Trap Spider reside in Cobweb, ranked at Threat Level F. It isn't a bad opponent for low-class Adventurers for the sake of experience.

「I'll warn you now, but while the Spiders are weak when they're alone, they're intelligent enough to use traps in groups. Their true threat comes from their cooperation. Please, don't be careless.」
「*Ke*, there's no *way* I'd lose to a Demonic Beast that even a Rank F could take care a'. They're nothin' but experience points.」
「..... In addition, Demonic Beasts aren't the only thing to watch out for inside the Dungeon. Most of the traps in Cobweb aren't a big deal, but watch out for Transition Traps[3].」

Transition Traps are traps that transfer their victim to any place in the Dungeon. It's difficult to prevent them from triggering, so even experts can fall into a crisis.

There seem to have been cases where Transition Traps placed in spider webs were triggered, sending their victims to Monster Rooms. There's a need to be careful.

「The Transition Trap is a fiendish trap that can sometimes involve more than just yourself. Be careful.」
「Yeah, yeah. I got it, I got it.」

He doesn't understand at all. I'm worried. With a reckless, incompetent fellow with a high likelihood of sabotaging others... I'll have to protect Fran.

Author's Note:
Combat methods and Titles have been added to the earlier chapters.

As for the current Status of Fran:

Name: Fran Age: 12
Race: Black Cat Beastman
Job: Magic Swordsman
State: Contracted

Status: Level: 25
HP: 304 MP: 215
STR: 150 END: 129 AGI: 140
INT: 95 MGC: 117 DEX: 108

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[1] A Grab-Bag is essentially a bag filled with a variety of objects; people're supposed to simply reach in and grab something without knowing what's inside. A good comparison would be Booster Packs for cards.

[2] So, there're two 'Swimming' skills here: 水泳 from the Sea Lion and 遊泳 from the Trident Shark. Because I'm simply using machines, I can't be sure of what the difference is, but I did look into the single characters that made the two different and found that the former seems to be just plain old swimming (水 = Water), while the latter seems to be referring to the sport/game-oriented side of swimming (遊 = Play).

~~If anyone has a better suggestion on how the two should be translated, I'd be happy to hear it.~~ Thanks to Mesaphrom for the suggestion for 遊泳!

[3] 転移の罠. Tempting as it is, I won't translate it as 'Teleportation Trap' because it's possible that 'Teleportation' will simply be a *stronger version* of Transition. Something like a trap that teleports its victim anywhere in the *world*, for example.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 47: A Little Bit of Training

It's the first day of the Dungeon Investigation commission.

With the group who left the Guild after making a commotion, we arrived at the entrance to a cave after half of the day had passed.

Well, the journey itself was quite serious in its own way. Mainly due to Clad. It seems he has the king-of-the-mountain trait, not liking anyone taking the lead other than himself; he just charged ahead each and every time. I was surprised that he would even talk back to the examiner: Cruz.

If he really wants to raise to D Rank, he couldn't seriously think that leaving a bad impression is the way to go, right? Or is he thinking that 'I have to be assertive!' = 'I'm the type to make decisions proactively!' and 'I'm not scared of my superiors!' = 'I have courage!'…?

I don't see the appeal.

Well, the thoughts of one person doesn't amount to much in the end.

Anyways, because Amanda is quite strong-willed, standoffs between the two continued to occur regularly. Because Clad always ended up losing to Amanda's vigor, he really should have stopped opposing her from the start.

Frion stayed uninvolved with any disputes, taking the position of a complete bystander. However, it could also be said that he was unwilling to lend a hand in quelling the arguments, too. Because of this, mediation between the two whenever a dispute occurred was left entirely to Cruz. Is it just my imagination, or does he seem strangely fatigued even though only half a day has passed? Everyone should really pitch in to help with these sorts of things.

What about Fran, you ask? Well, everyone has strong points and weak points.

That all aside, it was interesting to see Amanda battling along the way. Not only was her use of the whip amazing, but her use of wind-type Magic seemed incredibly useful. Unlike fire-type magics, using them in the middle of a woodland is fine.

After everything that occurred, we arrived a bit behind schedule. While we should have arrived at the Dungeon in the evening, it's already night.

「Erm… Originally we should have gone inside on the first day and traveled through two layers of the Dungeon, capturing the rest tomorrow, but… Because we're a little behind schedule, we'll stop and camp here today and head into the Dungeon early tomorrow. Sound good?」
「What d'you mean 'camp'! We should just hurry up and start conquering the Dungeon immediately, right? Conquering this Dungeon'll be easy; there're only small fries inside, y'know?」
「The Ranks of the Demonic Beasts within are indeed low, but it's dangerous to go in with a tired body. And so, we'll be camping here today.」
「I agree.」
「Me too.」
「Sounds good.」
「*Tsk*! Cowards!」

Even after saying so, Clad doesn't stand up and go in by himself. Even *he* should understand that it's dangerous to go into the Dungeon after walking for half a day. Cruz seems a bit unsatisfied with his reaction, but he doesn't say anything else.

To be honest, Clad's the type of person I inherently dislike. He's just the sort of person to start throwing in weird suggestions and quibble when an agenda is about to be finalized in class. *Even though* the surroundings are thinking「Geez, it doesn't matter. I just want this

to be finished so I can go home, so be quiet already.」he'd continue to oppose the popular opinion endlessly.

「Fran! Would you like to sleep in my Tent? It'd be fine to leave the watch to the men.」
「Decline.」
「*A—hh*, so *co—ld*.」
「I'll leave the first watch to you, miss Fran. After that, my group, Clad's group, and Frion's group will take over in that order.」

Oho, he pushed the Midnight watch — the most difficult time — to Clad, huh. You shouldn't do that, Cruz. Even if it's only a little, don't retaliate.

「The A Rank won't be keeping watch?」
「Amanda is acting as a spectator. Besides, if I asked her to help then it wouldn't be a proper test for you guys. If she participated, it'd take less than an hour to traverse the Dungeon on foot, and we'd be able to leave for home before the day ends. As for the results of the examination in that case: you'd all fail.」

Even non-standard opponents would be easily finished off by an A Rank. In fact, they'd only be at the level of a nuisance. With that, it'd be better to look at Amanda as insurance in case of an emergency.

「*Ke*. Is that so.」

It's already been decided that I'll keep watch as well when it's Cruz's turn. He continued grumbling afterwards, but was made to fall silent by Amanda in the end.

「You should have been notified beforehand, but meals and bedding are to be prepared by each party individually, alright?」

There's also that. After asking Randell, we obtained some high-quality bedding. A sleeping bag and blankets, all for just

7,000$_{Gorudo}$!

As for the meals... Well, that goes without saying. I had cooked large quantities of Demonic Beasts for this exact purpose, after all. Because we're the first watch we postponed the meal, however.

「*Oi, Oi*. Can a single brat e'en keep watch?」
「No problem.」
「*Ahh*? Y'think I can just trust a brat's words so easily?」
「She's a Rank D Adventurer. That's higher than you guys, right? If she says that there're no problems, then it's fine.」
「Her even *being* Rank D is questionable! What could a kid have done while we were on expedition, hah? Chances are, she just used 'er body t'gain the favor of that lolicon Guild Master, right? So, how'd ya be able to do it, huh?!」

Ah—, this guy was part of the returned-from-the-investigation group, huh. In that case, he wouldn't have a chance to witness Fran's battle prowess. At a Rank of this level, tricks shouldn't be possible to measure the ability of an individual, yet Clad misunderstood that as us getting our Rank through unjust means.

Well. Our increase in Ranks was quite peculiar. There's plenty of room for doubt.

Still, I can't forgive what I can't forgive.

『Fran, how are you holding up?』
(? Nothing particularly wrong. Slightly noisy.)

Clad continues exercising his Threatening Skill, but it seems that it's only seen as a bit noisy to Fran.

「Ability.」
「***Ha!*** *Ability*? A brat like you can't reach Rank D with jus' ability!」
「Ability (mine and Teacher's).」
「*Hyahaha*! A'right, then *show me*. Let's 'train' a little.」

After saying so, Clad lifts up his Spear. It seems he's intent on having a mock battle.

Fran raises slowly in return. *Haa*— Her battle-preparations are already complete.

『Fran, sparring is fine but don't go too far, alright?』
（Understood. Just training a bit.）

She has a good smile. However, no one else is saying anything. Because Frion and his companions aren't the type to speak up I can understand it, but……

I'd have thought that Amanda would have put a stop to this at the very beginning… Instead, she's just laughing. Well, maybe she figures there's no problem due to the difference in ability between Fran and Clad.

As for Cruz though, he doesn't seem to plan on stepping in at all. Has he become so exhausted that he's completely ran out of fuel? No, it doesn't seem like that's the case. He's looking at the two with an earnest expression.

That reminds me, I didn't see Cruz in the Goblin Subjugation either. Chances are, he was part of the return group in that case. In other words… He also wants to ascertain Fran's abilities. Cruz's two companions are casually paying attention to the surroundings, as to act as substitutions for Fran.

『Fran, before we begin, you should set up a Barrier in the surroundings.』

If we start the mock battle as-is, Clad might end up complaining that we didn't do a proper job as lookout.

（Nn. Understood.）

「——Wind・Zone」

「――Ground・Zone」

Wind・Zone is a magic barrier from Wind Magic, and can cover any range from its origin in a dome-shape. If anything intrudes within the barrier, the caster can sense it using the flow of wind.

Ground・Zone is also a magic barrier, this time from Soil Magic. It also creates a dome of any range from the origin. The difference between it and Wind・Zone is that it acts on and under the ground. On the other hand, it has no effect on intrusions via the air.

Through employing both Wind and Soil, one is able to cover all directions.

「……*Ha*? T-This is… Magic?」
「Moreover, from two attributes…」
「Seriously?」

Clad's party members started making noise in the background. Up until now, they had been watching things develop with smirks on their faces… But now they've taken on a blue tint.

「Y-You… You're a Magician?!」
「? Not a Magician.」
「No, but, that jus' now was Magic, wasn't it?!」
「Usable without being a Magician.」
「T-That's true, but……」

It seems that with only barrier-type magic we've managed to intimidate Clad. It's only a simple Lv4 magic, so only Rank E Adventurers and their equivalents will show up for Fran.

「Then, let's begin.」
「R-Right. A'right, let's go!」

'I can't use magic, but my Spear won't lose'. Such is the feeling I get from the determined expression on his face. In a fight between a Sword and a Spear, the Spear has an overwhelming advantage. In a

one-on-one match, it can't be beat.

「..... Any time.」
「*Tsuyaah!*」

No wait-and-see tactics? Is that alright? Perhaps he's going full-offensive since he sensed Fran's strength a bit?

With all his energy placed in a lunge to her face, Clad has no plans on stopping just before the strike lands. Frion, who was watching in an easygoing manner while dining shows an expression of shock. This is, indeed, surprising. From behind, Clad's comrades leak a scream. Seeing Fran not move at all, they must have thought that Clad's strike landed directly.

However, their expectations were way off the mark.

「No use.」

Fran, with only light swing of me, deflects the tip of the spear. Clad, whose body was covered in too much momentum, becomes wide open. There, Fran's kick explodes.

「***GAH!***」

Blown off his feet, Clad falls to the ground.

「Damn it!」
「Continue?」
「O-Obviously! My guard was down jus' then, but I won't be 'olding back from now on!」

Ohh! This is the first time I've heard the bad-loser cliché! He's unsightly for saying such a thing, so I can't really say that I approve. Well, maybe I can a little.

「Then, my move.」
「*Aa—**gh!***」

From Clad's perspective, Fran's figure should have disappeared, followed by a sudden impact from the side. Through Fran's quick movements, he was struck with my stomach.

「I can still……!」
「Nn.」
「Ora*ora***oraah!**」

In desperation, Clad swings his spear around violently, giving off consecutive thrusts. Fran isn't hit at all, however. *Thrust, thrust, thrust*. *Dodge, dodge, dodge*. I wonder how long this process repeated itself?

「Why?! What's–!」
「Not hitting.」
「How is this even–!」

It's probably been around three minutes since Clad continued striking with his Spear. I already feel dizzy, you know? Panting, his expression has turned miserable, probably due to the shock of realizing that not even one of his attacks have been successful.

「Damn it, *damn it!*」
「Then, time to finish.」
「***Damn iiii––GOHA*！」

For the second time, I strike him. This time, the strike lands on his face, causing him to lose consciousness and fall onto his back.

「**Leader!**」

Clad's companions quickly rush to his side.

『Well, with this he shouldn't make such a fuss anymore.』
「Nn. Regrettable.」
『Ahh, regrettable indeed.』

He didn't make a good sparring partner by any means. Still, against

a person with such a difficult personality, the battle was comical at least.

「Fran, so stro—ng～」
「Nn.」

Suddenly, Amanda's arms wrap around Fran. I wasn't even able to notice her approach. *Damn*, how mortifying.

However, Amanda has a hint of discomfort on her face. She has the same gentle smile as usual, but... Her eyes aren't smiling at all. If anything, they look the same as a bird of prey which found game.

「Hey. Won't you spar with me as well?」
「With Amanda?」
「That's right. I'm a Solo A Rank, you know? I've been having trouble finding a training partner lately, but if it's Fran then some good practice might be possible!」

Ahh, she wouldn't have anyone to train with, would she? Sparring with an A Rank... It would be a valuable experience. Training in of itself is good. I don't think that any accidents will occur, either……

『Hey, Fran——』
（Great training for Master Sword Arts.）
『... That's right.』
「Nn.」

Hah... it's no good. She's in complete battle-mode right now. It won't be possible to stop Fran when she's like this.

Ensig:
There's an Author Note here regarding the inclusion of Fran's status at the end of last chapter, alongside a correction he made to this chapter (at the part where Clad is struck in the stomach). Because said notes have already been implemented, I'll exclude them.

Chapter 48: A Short Spar

Author's Note:
I've received a comprehensive evaluation of $30{,}000_{pt}$!
This is all thanks to your guys' support!

「*Haahhh!*」
「*Fuu!*」
『Dangerous! This is seriously dangerous!』

Amanda's whip strikes where Fran had just been standing.

DoGOoOoO****

That isn't the power of a whip! It's more like some sort of giant mallet was thrown into the fray, sinking the ground in!

「*Ahahaha!* That's the way, Fran!」
「……!」

We're caught completely in Amanda's pace. Fran's been obstructed by that transcendent-quality whip right from the start, so it's impossible to get in close.

As expected of an A Rank Adventurer. I had thought that we could have a good match, but I was making light of her.

『That whip sure is troublesome…』

Only defensive movement can be taken to block its attacks, which come from any angle. The strikes are ever-changing, and infinite in variety. Sometimes, the attacks can come in the form of heavy-hitting blunt strikes, sometimes they can cut clean through rocks, and sometimes, not even sound can keep up with them. Frankly speaking, it's strange that Fran hasn't been defeated already.

『Are you alright?』
（Teacher, interference: forbidden.）
『I know.』
（*Nn!* Will absolutely get an attack in.）
『*Ou*. Do your best.』

That might be too high a target… Amanda hasn't even moved from her starting position, after all.

She's already peerless when it comes to the whip, but it should be kept in mind that Amanda's Job is Champion of Storms, meaning she's fully capable of using the higher form of Wind Magic: Storm Magic. However, she has yet to use any magic whatsoever. In other words, she hasn't considered it necessary to do so.

Even if I observe her flow of magic using the Sorcery Skill, there's no change. And, on top of not using any magic, she hasn't even used any Whip Techniques, giving a looming feeling of dread.

However, Fran isn't ordinary either. Gradually, she's getting used to the movements of the whip. The distance between her and Amanda is growing shorter.

「*Now*!」
「Naïve!」
「Predicted.」
「*Mu–!* You did it, huh!」

Maybe the mock battle was worth it, after all? Fran reached a position where I could almost reach Amanda.

Finally, after five minutes since the battle began, Amanda was forced to move her legs. Fran, receiving an immense amount of bloodthirst, takes some distance once again.

「Ah, pardon me. It seems that the naïve one was me.」
「Nn.」

「…… *Sh!*」
「*–Bu*」
「It's the first time in a while that I needed to dodge in a fight.」

With her whip undulating like a snake, Amanda launches herself at Fran. Her movement is just like a snake. Furthermore, the presence of magic was felt from whatever Skill she was using. Most likely, it's a Whip Technique.

With that, the battle intensifies even further. Wounds, big and small, cover Fran's entire body the more time passes. The power of the whip clad in magic power using Whip Techniques is terrific, and while Fran is barely able to evade them, she's being damaged by the wind pressure.

Still, I'm not too worried. The day we met Amanda, we went to look up information on her. Right off the bat, we found that she was a good person in general, and was good-natured through and through.

To begin with, Amanda has managed an orphanage for more that 30 years. There're nearly 500 people in the current Aressa who came from said orphanage, making her well-loved by many.

When Cobweb was still active near Aressa in the past, Adventurers flourished. Because of that, the number of orphans whose Parents died while adventuring also rose, and the guards weren't exactly the kindest, either. At 20 years old, Amanda (only a D Rank at the time) extended a helping hand out to such children.

Casting her materials aside, she built an orphanage to educate and bring up any orphans she could find. Nowadays there's plenty of help from people around town, and the management of the orphanage is favorable as well, but… Back then it would have been painful to smile through it all.

Furthermore, regarding the Title 'Guardian of Children', to obtain it

you not only have to *save* children, but be *loved* by them as well. It's said to be a Title that would be lost upon enacting any inappropriate behavior.

Amanda, possessing such a Title, would obviously be a good friend for Fran, who is a child herself.

Perhaps, so long as they're both mutually satisfied, then it's of no consequence whether injuries are inflicted in this battle... Or maybe, it's because all of these wounds aren't inflicted with malicious intent.

「***Ha!***」
「*Kuu……*」

Still, the intensity of this battle is worrisome.

It's gradually becoming a one-sided battle, with Fran on the defensive.

... Huh? At this rate, isn't this really bad? Anti-Death prevents instant death, but it isn't absolute. You could die again immediately if you're in a Poisoned or Bleeding State.

Should I stop them?

— No, let's wait and see for a while longer. Fran is intent on landing at least one blow in this battle.

「***Now!***」

Fran moved. To Amanda, who activated another Whip Technique, she stepped forward by force. At onlooker might see it as desperation, but I know that's not the case.

「*Gu...!*」

The whip, thrust forward, scrapes out Fran's side. Blood dances in

the air as it escapes the open wound, but Fran, who pushes her back by force with Wind Magic, advances with a grimace.

「As expected of you!」
「*Ha……!*」

Using half of her remaining magic, Fran lunges with her whole body. It isn't a Sword Technique, but its offensive power is probably equivalent to one.

Furthermore, there was no time for Amanda to pull back her whip for the sake of a counterattack.

「Wind・Shield!」

GYyYyan!*

With a high-pitched sound, the blow which had Fran's whole body invested in it was… Prevented. Wind Magic, which Amanda hadn't used up until this point, had nullified it. It goes without saying that it was only used because Amanda had been driven into a corner. However, Fran's aim was to land a single blow. She won't be satisfied with just this.

And so, Fran released the magic she had reserved: Flare・Blast.

It was launched immediately after defensive magic was used. Even Amanda wouldn't be able to reactivate a proper defensive measure in time.

『Splendid!』

Throughout the entire battle, I had been chanting Arias with Parallel Thought to see what times I could potentially land a blow, and in my opinion, that was the best timing thus far.

「*Kuu!*」

GaGOOOOOON

With Amanda hit directly by Flare・Blast, a great explosion ensued. A cloud of dust, kicked up as though a bomb had detonated, covers the entire area. The ground around us melts, becoming something akin to lava. Just how hot is it, I wonder?

She isn't dead, right? She's an A Rank, but the explosion just now was a bit dangerous…… There was a time when I thought so.

What manner of magic would it take for her to remain unscathed? Not only that, to be in perfect condition! No matter how you look at it, this woman's too far out of the norm! I know that there's Fire Resistance and all, but to that extent?!

「That was dangerous……」
「Nn…… Regret…ful…」

dosa

With that, Fran collapses with a look of vexation. With such excessive bleeding, there's no question that she had become light-headed. And so, reaching the limit of her endurance, Fran went unconscious on the spot.

『How regretful…… Still, you've done well.』

It was good to have fought against this monster of an opponent here. Furthermore, she did it without my assistance.

「Fran! I'm so sorry!」

Amanda approaches the collapsed Fran in a hurry, and takes out a Potion before sprinkling it on Fran. Without a doubt, it's a first-class Life Potion.

「As a reward for your perseverance you should have landed that strike, but… Grace of the Spirits protected me automatically.」

I see, so it was thanks to Grace of the Spirits. It seems to be a Skill which automatically invalidates damage to a certain degree. It's an extremely strong Skill, but it has the drawback of needing 24 hours to reuse.

Fran might be unconvinced, but I think that her strike was definitely a good one, one that invoked the absolute defense of her opponent.

Well, for now, rest well. As for the watch..... The others can take care of it. Probably.

Ensig:
There's an Author's Note here regarding how they changed the typo-correction's location to the Afterward. Because all of these Raws have their mistakes edited out already, I'll simply omit the Note.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 49: Lessons from Ms. Amanda ～The So-Called Explanation-Time～

It's been one hour since Fran's sparring match and defeat with Amanda.

After waking up, Fran took a seat face-to-face with Amanda. As Amanda was feeling apologetic for letting the battle escalate so far, it was decided that she would teach us some of the information we wanted to know.

As Fran was able to learn a lot through the battle, I don't really think that there was a need take over Fran's watch and personally guard her while she slept as well as grant us this, but… Since it's already like this, we've might as well accept it, right?

「Then, first I'll explain fighting Skills.」
「Please.」
「However, I'm not too strong when it comes to theories, so I won't be able to explain everything. Is that alright?」
「That's fine.」

To us who know near-nothing, any information is precious.

「Then, Combat Arts are things like Sword Arts, which allow one to improve their handling with a respective weapon; these improvements can also be seen with Techniques. Combat Techniques like Sword Techniques, Pugilist Techniques, and my preferred Whip Techniques all hold special moves that consume one's magical power. Did you know of that?」
「Nn. I know.」

Sword Arts is required to learn Sword Techniques, and Bow Arts is required to learn Bow Techniques. Furthermore, it's impossible to learn Combat Techniques at a higher level than their respective

Combat Arts, making the two a pair. In other words, one must bear in mind that if their Sword Arts is only Lv5, they can only level Sword Techniques up to Lv5.

「After that is only a matter of learning how to use Combat Techniques themselves, but……」
「Nn.」
「Well, I'm not really clear on the details surrounding that.」
「Eh?」
「No, well, the methods to learn can be grasped through training, but… I don't really know the *detailed theory* around it. If you ask someone researching the subject, you might be able to understand it a bit better.」
「Just training method is fine.」
「That's usually how it is for Adventurers. Anyways, I suppose for that I should talk about the prerequisites of Vigor Manipulation and Magic Manipulation? As for the reason for needing them…… To be frank, I don't know why either. As a Half-Elf, I gained both of them before I could remember. Well, it seems that Fran didn't have any problems with them either, so shall I simply omit it?」
「Nn. Don't mind.」
「Then, moving onto the training method for Combat Techniques, just envision yourself pouring your magic into the weapon as well as your body. Then, like a flash, Combat Techniques arrive. The Techniques themselves are activated when you don't go against that flash. After the first use, the Technique is acquired in the form of a Skill of sorts, so there's no problem using it from that point on. Fran can use Combat Techniques too, so do you remember acquiring them?」
「?」
「Well, Fran is still small, so you probably learned your Combat Techniques when you were even younger, right? It's possible that you've forgotten. Still, to be able to use Combat Techniques at such a young age, you're pretty prodigious, huh.」

Dangerous. We were saved by the fact that Fran's a child. Anyways,

in regards to the method of obtaining Combat Techniques, I have a rough idea of how it works. With this, not only Sword Arts, but Sword Techniques should also be able to be trained manually.

「Once a Combat Technique has been learned, you should continuously use it to raise the Skill's level. The reason being each time a level goes up in a form of Combat Techniques, a new Technique is learned.」

Lv1 must be the most difficult to raise, then.

「Next, shall I move onto the description of Magic?」
「Nn.」
「In Magic, the basic attributes are Soil, Water, Fire, and Wind. Their superior versions are Ground, Ocean, Flame, and Storm respectively.」

All four of the basic attributes can be used already.

「After those are what are called 'composite attributes'. Those are Lightning, Ice, Nature, Lava, Sandstorm, and Life: those 6.」
「Composite?」
「Yes. You can acquire those attributes after improving two of the basic attributes. For example, Nature Magic requires Water and Soil Magic.」
「Possible to learn? Or not?」
「Well, I'll get to that.」

To learn Magic, one can either become a pupil of an experienced magician, or learn it through means of memorization, or... Well, there're various methods.

Amanda seemed to have learned how to use magic through memorization and training. However, the training method is quite terrific. What makes it terrific is the fact that the method itself closely resembles the practices of a certain Hunter×Hunter[1].

For Water Magic, one has to touch water every day, drink it, soak in it, and hammer the essence of water into one's mind and body. When water flows even in one's dreams, then it becomes possible to learn Water Magic.

If it's Wind Magic, then running about naked in strong gales would work. For Soil, you'd just need to be buried under the ground, or take bites out of stones. Well, such training might be a bit excessive, so only *some* magicians do such things… Was it my imagination that Amanda's eyes swam for a moment? She would have trained for the Wind, so……

Anyways, unlike Sword Arts, there seems to be no guarantee that magic can be learned, the reason being 'The Wall of Talent'. For Sword Arts, even if there's a difference in the effort needed between individuals, anyone can learn and improve through proper dedication. In Magic, however, if you don't have talent, you can't acquire it. Period.

「Talent?」
「Yeah. It might be better to say that each person has a certain compatibility with each attribute. For a person incompatible with the Fire Attribute, no matter how much effort they put into learning Fire Magic, they won't be able to do so.」

So, without talent, no matter how much training one does, it would all be to waste? Even with the dedication to burn oneself, it'd be possible to achieve no results… How terrible.

「Currently there isn't a method of examining which attributes one has a talent for, however, I don't think a person with absolutely *no* talent exists, so it'd be possible to learn Magic so long as one keeps at it.」
「Depends on efforts.」
「That's how it is. Incidentally, I had attempted to train myself for Fire, but I wasn't able to learn it in the end. Instead, it seemed that I had talent for Wind, so I was able to learn it in about a week.」

「I see.」
「It seems that there're also cases of geniuses capable of using Magic ever since they were born too, I think? I wonder if Fran's one such case?」
「Nn?」
「You can't remember, huh. Well, that's fine. Returning to the subject of composite attributes, there're two main issues in acquiring them.」
「Have to learn two attributes first.」
「Right. After that, there's the question of whether you have talent for the *composite attribute* itself.」

Because of those two things, composite attributes are extremely rare. Until now, the only composite attribute we've seen has been Nature Magic from both the Guild Master and Frion… Both of which are Wood Elves. Because of that, I'm under the impression that aptitude towards Nature Magic simply came to them due to their Race. If that's the case, then it's simply to be expected that composite attributes aren't seen often.

「And so, composite attributes are very rare.」

As for Fran, I wonder where her talent lies? Magic shared by me is usable without a problem for the four basic attributes; Dark and Recovery Magic are also the same. In that case, perhaps Skills gained through a shared relationship disregard talent. No matter how you look at it, it'd be highly irregular for her to have talent in all 4 attributes, after all…

「Next, I'll explain the rest of the attributes.」
「Dark and Recovery?」
「Just like those. First, let's start with Light and Dark.」

The Light and Dark attributes aren't included among the four basic ones. While the methods to attain them doesn't differ with the basic four, they're exempted simply due to the overwhelmingly few amount of people with talent for them.

Surprisingly, they're even rarer than those with talent with Composite Magic, making the order of rarity 4 Basic → Composite → Light and Dark. Being able to acquire Dark Magic from the Demon was extremely lucky.

「With the inclusion of Light and Dark, there're even more attributes to be derived. The derivations of Light are Purification and Illusion while Dark can be derived into Poison and Ghost.」

Everyone with talent for the Light attribute will also have talent with Purification and Illusion without exception. Similarly, talent in the Poison and Ghost attributes is also guaranteed if one has talent with Dark, so the derivation attributes are actually seen as subordinate-attributes in the eyes of researchers. Also, having talent with the derived attributes doesn't necessarily mean that an individual will have talent in the Dark or Light attributes themselves.

Furthermore, Poison and Purification have higher attributes: Decay and Cleansing.[2] There're way too many magic attributes.

「Other than those, there're also unique attributes.」

The unique attributes include Recovery, Support, Summoning, Contract, Space-Time, Moonlight, Spirit, Smithing, and other non-generic ones. Practitioners of Support and Recovery Magic seem to be plentiful, but when it comes to attributes like Space-Time and Moonlight, their rarity surpasses even Light and Dark.

「Those're only the ones off the top of my head, but there're many other unique attributes scattered across the world. There seem to be attributes unique to Demonic Beasts, too.」
「Such as?」
「Well, rumors have it that Dragons possess magic only usable by themselves. There's a similar case said about Fiends and such. Compared with mankind, Demonic Beasts that can use magic outnumber us by a wide margin, after all.」
「Why?」

「Well, in the first place, Demonic Beasts make use of magic on a daily basis. Demonic Beasts larger than castles would be killed off in no time if they didn't reinforce their bodies with magic, right? To them, magic is second nature — like breathing. Because of that, Demonic Beasts can use Magic even without Magic Manipulation, unlike mankind. Their Magic Stones might also have a hand in that, too… But of course, there're also ones that have Magic Manipulation as well, further increasing their efficiency.」
「I see.」
「It's the same with Combat Techniques. Even with differences between Vigor Manipulation and Magic Manipulation, in the end, aren't they simply Skills making use of magic? Because of that, Demonic Beasts can make use of Combat Techniques without Vigor Manipulation.」

I suppose Skills like Vibration Fang would fall under that category?

「And, due to the Demonic Beasts' peculiar magic-oriented nature, there're many individuals capable of using Light and Dark attributes too. Looking at it like that, they're far more talented than mankind.」

That reminds me, there's still one thing that I've been wondering about.

「Is Dark Magic only used by bad people?」

The Demon made use of it, and Poison and Ghost Magic are the types used by villains no matter how you look at it. If it was me, I wouldn't be able to trust a practitioner of Ghost Magic on our first meeting no matter what. They'd be an evil person, after all. Or… I'd imagine them to be so, anyways.

「That's not the case. Demonic Beasts may make use of it, and civilians might think that it's inherently bad, but… For Adventurers, magic of all kinds is generally recognized as 'useful'. For example, Ghost Magic is really useful in Dungeon exploration, you know?」

Alright. In that case we can make use of Darkness Magic without a problem. With that, Darkness Reinforcement and other such Skills won't simply be left to collect dust.

Finally, we asked about the combinations of complex attributes.

- Water + Soil = Nature
- Water + Wind = Ice
- Water + Fire = Life
- Wind + Fire = Lightning
- Wind + Soil = Sandstorm
- Soil + Fire = Lava.

Those are the combinations.

As for the composite attributes between Light and Dark as well as unique attributes, they have yet to be confirmed.

「Well, I don't know of them, at least.」
「I want a composite attribute.」
「Fran made use of Soil and Wind magic a while back, and you're good with Fire too, right? With those, it's possible to aim for Lightning, Sandstorm, and Lava.」
「Nn. I'll do my best.」

Alright, if that's what Fran wants then we'll obtain one without fail!

I could learn a composite attribute through absorbing one, or through manual acquisition. I was able to learn Flame Magic through Fire Magic Lv10, so the possibility of a composite attribute being learned through raising the levels of other magics is high.

『As it stands…… The attribute second to Fire is Wind.』

In the Goblin Den, Wind Magic Lv3 was repeatedly obtained through absorbing the stones of Army Beetles. The efficiency of absorbing higher-leveled Skills is better than lower-leveled ones, after all.

Raising Wind Magic through the insects' Lv3 versions took far less time than advancing Sword Arts through the Goblins' Lv1 versions.

『What shall we do…… Perhaps we should give it a level or two?』

47 Self-Evolution Points remain. We should leave 28 of those for the sake of testing out the Superior version of Sword Arts.

『What do you think?』
（What to do?）

In the end, we used 6 Points to raise Wind Magic's level. As we attained the Lightning Attribute properly, I have no regrets. Furthermore, the Storm Attribute and Master of Wind Titles were also obtained.

（Want to use it quickly.）
『Not here. We only just heard about Composite Attributes from Amanda, so somehow using one immediately would be bad.』
（Alright……）
『When we return to Aressa, let's test it out. Alright?』
「Nn.」

---

[1] Surprisingly mentions Hunter×Hunter without any censorship (狩人×狩人).

[2] In regards to the higher version attributes, the first (Decay) is actually Ptomaine Poison (死毒). Because Ptomaine is found in putrefying corpses/vegetation, Decay seems to be fitting, so I went with it.
The second is 聖浄, with the first character being Sacred/Holy/Pure and the second being Cleaning/Cleansing/Cleanup. 'Cleansing' in itself can be linked to the purging of sins/filth, so that's what I decided upon.

It should also be noted that 浄化, which I've translated as 'Purification' could also be 'Cleanup', so if Teacher and/or Fran happen to get it and the first spell is something like 'Clean', then I'll change Purification → Cleaning, and keep Cleansing the same.

As always, if you have a better suggestion, feel free to let me know in the comments.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 50: Traps and Tricks

It's the second day of the Dungeon Investigation.

「Alright, we've broken through 5 layers.」

Our group has already finished exploring four layers.

As for any problems: there haven't been many. Clad, most likely due to the effect of yesterday's defeat, has remained quiet. No, perhaps his silence is due to the shock of witnessing the spar between Fran and Amanda when he woke up? Well… It serves him right either way.

Still, Amanda's approach for 'training' was quite terrifying… The spar was fierce, and I could only witness Fran being beaten half to death too. When her side was practically gauged out my guts went cold… Not that I have any guts, of course!

There're many metaphorical expressions that use parts of the body, so it's quite difficult to use them for me who is inorganic. Still, that doesn't matter. The point is, I was a tad worried.

It was good that we were able to see the strength of an A Rank Adventurer firsthand, so while Fran was a bit vexed with the result, she doesn't seem to have started disliking Amanda. Rather than seeing her as an opponent who she narrowly escaped death from, it's more likely that Fran is viewing her as another wall to someday climb over. Testament to that is the sense of goodwill I can feel from her towards Amanda.

As for Amanda herself, it seemed that the spar from last night was satisfactory. She had lamented the fact that she could easily defeat common Adventurers simply by wielding a Whip, but with Fran's high prowess in evasive maneuvers and attack even she would be in danger if she relaxed.

It was because of this that the morning was noisy with her request to spar again… Even to Cruz and Frion, the spar between Amanda and Fran was like something from a different dimension.

They didn't particularly change their attitude towards Fran, but pieces of their actions and language indicated a slight feeling of awe towards Fran. With that, it seems that they've fully recognized her strength.

Surprisingly enough, something akin to kindness was even felt from Cruz. Perhaps he's finally realized that the one he lost to was Rank D? Or perhaps he's the type of person who would only accept another after measuring their strength firsthand. How manly, Cruz. However, Fran is off-limits!

Moving on, layers 1 to 4 didn't have any strong opponents and the traps were few, so we simply proceeded without pause for the most part. The Demonic Beasts themselves were Insect-type, so while it's a shame, I couldn't obtain any new Skills from them.

「Now, just a reminder, Trap Spiders will be appearing from now on.」
「Nn.」
「If we're surrounded it'll get troublesome, so be careful.」

Becoming bound by thread is more than enough to lead to defeat — even if your opponent is weak.

「At the same time, the number of traps will increase. The Transition Traps are particularly dangerous, so prepare accordingly. Rather than focusing on the detection of enemies, I'd like to ask everyone with the Thief Job to focus on finding traps.」

And so, with Thieves as the lead, we plunge into the fifth layer. In case of combat, Warriors step forward, with the Magicians providing support from behind.

The materials capable of being gathered from the Spiders, being quite strong for their rank, have moderate value. Their utility is also a part of that. However, they're weak to fire and burn up easily, so we'll be refraining from fire-type Magic as much as possible. Instead, Fran wields me.

Like this, traversing the 5th Layer can be done without a problem. Well, that's only to be expected with this much fighting power on our side.

However... We immediately encountered a problem after delving into the 6th Layer.

「Shit, e'en though they're jus' small fries!」
「They aren't falling, even with Spirit Magic...? This can't be!」

The Trap Spiders have suddenly become stronger. Not only their size, their increase in vitality is also plainly visible. Perhaps the deeper we delve, the stronger they will become?

After using Appraisal, I can only be surprised by their Name and Description.

『Fran, these aren't Trap Spiders, they're Trick Spiders, their evolution!』

At a glance, a Trick Spider only seems to be a large Trap Spider, but their contents are entirely different. They're the products of Highbreeds that have evolved, after all. The Threat Level of a single Trick Spider is E.

As for their Status, their offensive power is more than double what we've been facing thus far. Furthermore, they make use of Confusion Poison, and even have the Deadly Poison Fang Skill. It seems that the number of Adventurers who mistook them for Trap Spiders and attacked them only to lose their lives in the process aren't few.

「Gennell! What's wrong?!」
「I... I don't know... I've tried using an Anti-Venom, but it's not working...」

So someone got hit, huh... The Poison from Trap Spiders is very weak, so if one swallowed a 5th Grade Anti-Venom it wouldn't be a problem. And so, mistaking the Trick Spiders for Trap Spiders, they must have continued fighting while swallowing low-class Anti-Venoms, thus falling prey to the deadly poison.

『Fran. These guys are dangerous.』
「Nn.」

When Fran takes even the smallest scratch, I immediately apply Antidote[1] — a technique that can even nullify Sovereign Poison completely.

「I-I'm saved!」
「Thank you very much.」
「Nn. Trick Spiders. Strong Poison.」
「Wha-! Trick Spiders?! Impossible! Did evolution occur?!」

In truth, Trick Spiders aren't supposed to be created in this cave. The strongest of this Dungeon's Demonic Beasts were supposed to be Trap Spiders.

However, if several factors overlapped then evolution, an occurrence surpassing one's expectations, can happen.

Those factors start with the birth of an individual too strong for its species. Although it is brought forth by the power of the Dungeon, there are individual differences between each Dungeon Monster. Demonic Beasts with more power than other individuals — sometimes labeled as Unique or Rare individuals — are more than capable of appearing.

And when a powerful individual is born, what do you think

happens? It takes a monopoly of the food, forcing the weaker individuals to either cannibalism or starvation. There is the possibility of the strong individual to evolve after eating enough food... But there is also the possibility for a weaker specimen evolving through its survival and cannibalism.

There have been cases where both sides evolve only to eradicate one another, but there have also been cases where the evolved individuals live symbiotically, changing the entire Dungeon ecosystem.

Furthermore, there're cases where the accidental ingestion of experience-rich food, or external factors leading to evolution.

Well, in the case of a captured Dungeon, the latter two cases are pretty improbable.

「Damn, we were careless! Ms. Amanda!」
「I understand. Fran, will you be coming as well?」
「Nn.」

That marked the beginning of a one-sided slaughter. In an instant, we began reducing the number of Trick Spiders that the Rank E Adventurers were having trouble with. In only minutes, the cluster of ~20 spiders transformed into nothing more than a pile of silent corpses.

「Fighting against small fries really is boring. Right, Fran?」
「*Nh-nn*. Fun.」
「Oh, is that so? Well, so long as Fran had fun it's fine.」

While Fran has an enjoyable expression, the rest of the Adventurers have looks of fatigue. Even Clad seems to be nearing his limit.

「Let's pull back to the 5th Layer! Those guys shouldn't follow us there!」

Unless they've overpopulated or received instructions from a

Dungeon Master, Dungeon Monsters are restricted to their own Layer. And so, the Trick Spiders shouldn't be able to give chase after we reach the 5th Layer.

「If they're already breeding, this is pretty dangerous.」
「We know already!」
「Fran, act as the rearguard.」
「Nn.」
「E Rank Parties, withdraw!」
「G-Got i– ***Gyaa***!」
「C-Calm down! 'S just a scratch!」
「There're more 'hind us!」
「'S only *one*! Jus' don't make any noise!」
「H-Here they come again!」

Falling into a panic were some of Clad's party members from Roar of the Dragon. Not only do they not seem to be accustomed to being surrounded by Demonic Beasts, they've taken on the Status Abnormality: Confusion.

「Just wait a sec!」
「S-Shut it!」

Clad is just barely retaining his fighting spirit as two of his subordinates, ones who took a surprise attack from the rear, blindly ran towards the swarm of spiders ahead.

「Wait! There might be traps over there!」

And so, sure enough, by running into the area that the Thieves hadn't scanned yet they triggered traps.

****KYUIIIIIIN****

「That… Was that a Transition Trap?」
「Not good–」

With that, Fran disappeared.

I, who should have been in her hand, was left behind.

『*Eh*? Fran?』
「Fran!」

---

[1] Note that the 'Anti-Venom' used previously is actually '毒消し', which can be 'Antidote' as well. The reason I opted out of translating it that way is due to the fact that *this* Antidote is a Technique/Spell (アンチ・ドート) and is written in Katakana (i.e. it's literally pronounced as it would be in English: Anti・Dote).
In English, Antidote doesn't have a space, pause, or seperater between Anti and Dote, so I can't make use of the '・' that I've been using to distinguish them. And so, instead of translating アンチ・ドート and 毒消し the same, I've made slight adjustments.
As for why I'm not making the Technique 'Anti・Venom' instead, once again, it's Katakana. I'd rather keep it as-is from the Raws than take creative privileges here.
If anyone has a better suggestion, feel free to mention it in the comments.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 51: Its name is Urushi

Fran disappeared.

She disappeared by getting caught in a Transition Trap that one of Clad's companions set off!

The weapons of the two others who were caught in the trap were also left in place, just like I was. Not only their Spears, Daggers and Throwing Knives were also left behind. Similarly, Fran's throwing equipment alongside the Dagger of the Sovereign Serpent fell beside me as well.

「Forced cancellation of equipped weapons…?」
「Even the spare weapons were left behind…」

I had heard about the *range* of the Transition Trap beforehand, but they even force the cancellation of equipped weapons? If the trap was that dangerous, why wasn't that mentioned in the explanation?! *Shit*, for even the registration to disappear…! P-Please… Stay alive… ***No***, it'll be alright. She *should* be alright.

What can I do? There must be some way to look for Fran…… There should be something capable of doing so in my various Detection Skills!

「Ridiculous! I've ne'er heard a' such a brutal trap existin' in this Dungeon!」
「That ain't a trap that should be in a Dungeon of this Rank!」

Cruz was also caught by surprise. Apparently, the trap doing this really was a bolt out of the blue.

「…… I think I know how this happened.」
「What, what do you know?」
「The Trick Spiders have a Highbreed variant called the Trickster

Spider, which are known to have the Trap Remodeling Skill.」

Trap Remodeling? In other words, they can modify the traps in the Dungeon? What a troublesome Demonic Beast! Even more, the they're Highbreeds of *Trick Spiders*? Isn't that bad?

「It was already irregular that Trick Spiders showed up, right? If Trickster Spiders are present as well, it's not a huge surprise.」
「*Ku*... Izel, the Map!」
「I've already checked it. If the terrain's remained the same, there should be a small room up ahead.」
「I'm going!」

After picking up the Dagger of the Sovereign Serpent and I, Amanda breaks into a run. I'll remain quiet for now.

Spiders in the surroundings pounce at Amanda all at once. *Oi, oi.* It hasn't even been 24 hours yet! Without Grace of the Spirits, Amanda won't be able to revive! Even if it's Amanda, this number is–!

「Nuisances.」

ZAN!

Amanda's right hand blurs, and even the Spiders that hadn't jumped at her in the surroundings burst open instantly. One strike. With only one strike, the Spiders were wiped out. I've made lightly of Amanda yet again. I wasn't even able to see her attack just now. Like this, she never got serious in her battle with Fran either, huh.

After a minute, we arrive at the small room. Naturally, we do so without triggering any traps.

「***Fran!***」
「*Victor! Bart!*」

However, there was no one else inside the room.

「Even the destination of the Transition Trap was changed, it seems…」
「*Shit*! Th' hell are we gonna do?!」
「We should split up and look around. However, it'd be nothing but suicide if we divided our numbers too much in the current situation. Izel, Clad, members of Roar of the Dragon and I will form a unit. Rigg and the Eyes of the Forest will form the second. Finally, Amanda will move herself, with that, we'll have three groups.
「G-Got it.」
「Let's go!」

With that, the Adventurers move out… But Amanda stays in place. Leaning me against the wall, she closes her eyes and concentrates. It doesn't seem like she's using Wind Magic…

Ah, she must be thinking about a method of searching for Fran. I can't just leave this situation to the Adventurers. I have to do my best as well.

Telepathy is — useless. Because my Equipment Registration has been cut off, my connection to Fran was completely severed. Usually, thanks to that connection I would be able to use Telepathy even if she was far away, but… I can't feel Fran right now. To become so uneasy simply by having our connection dissipate…! No, the anxiety Fran is feeling likely trumps mine, I must calm down!

If only I had an Art related to Transition, or something like a spatial leap… Anything would be fine so long as I could fly to Fran. Or, perhaps a Skill that can return Fran to me…… Are there any good Spells that can be used?

No, wait. Pulling Fran back just might be possible with *Summon Kin*. Fran is contracted by me, so even if our Equipment Registration was dissolved, the contract remains! And, I think I can say that Fran is my kin……

However, I've neglected verifying Summon Kin's effects after its

level had risen. I couldn't summon anything when it was Level 1, and even after its level improved, because I don't make contracts I figured it would be a waste of time. Thus, I didn't check. However, things may have changed with the Skill's raise in level. Even if the possibility is small, I'm clinging at straws here.

Is Fran's name here–?

Hm?

Fran's name isn't listed, but instead the list of 'kin' I can summon are a bunch of individuals that I don't know about.

Summonable Kin: Wolf, Gray Wolf, Brown Wolf, Red Wolf, Blue Wolf, G

What on earth is this? A wolf festival? I don't understand. I don't remember contracting such beings at all.

For now, I should look at the details of each individual.

The first Wolf is just a common wolf. The Grey and Brown Wolves are simply wolves that evolved from regular wolves after specializing in AGI and STR respectively. The Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow Wolves are wolves that can control the attributes of Fire, Water, Wind and Soil respectively. The Black Wolf controls Darkness and Poison.

The Ruby Wolf is the Flame attribute Highbreed of a Red Wolf. Similarily, Emerald is the Storm attribute, and the Thunder Wolf is Lightning. The Onyx Wolf seems to be a Highbreed of the Black Wolf with control over the Darkness, Poison, and Ghost attributes.

Although there're various other features, my eyes remain on one of the abilities of the Onyx Wolf. That is, the Life Perception Skill! Moreover, the Red Wolf and any proceeding wolves have the Echolocation and Keen Smell Skills. So, if it's an Onyx Wolf, will it be able to find Fran?

With that thought, I decide to choose the Onyx Wolf instead of the others.

『――Summon・Onyx Wolf!』

To make sure that a strong individual appears, I pour the maximum amount of MP into the summon. I don't know how much of an effect it'll have, but…

「***Gururuu***」

From a magic formation appearing out of thin air, a Wolf with jet-black fur springs out.

I-It's a bit bigger than expected. Considerably so. I thought it would be about the size of a big dog, but…… This fellow is more comparable to the size of a cow.

「An Onyx Wolf? In a place like this…?」

Dangerous. I completely forgot about Amanda. She's super surprised. *Eh?* If it's like this, then won't it just be subjugated…?

It's releasing a terrific amount of magic from its entire body while growling all the while as a form of intimidation… No matter how you look at it, this wolf is a hostile Demonic Beast!

「***Grrrrrrr……***」

Please stop. Why are you growling so much? And stop releasing your magic!

『Oi, stop growling! Behave yourself!』
「*Gururr!*」

It's no use. It's like it's not even listening. Should I try even harder to persuade it? Or rather, why does it look like it's suffering? Just what's going on?

Name：None
Race：Onyx Wolf：Demonic Wolf：Demonic Beast
State：Contracted, Magic Power Discharge

Status: Level 1
HP：319 MP：313 STR：146 END：156 AGI：251 INT：103 MGC：201

State：Magic Power Discharge? That is–! That must be the reason why its magic is being dispersed all the time! Ah, is that because of me? Is it because I put too much magic power into the summoning?

〈Will you perform〈**Christening**〉on the Onyx Wolf?〉

At a time like this?! Should I give it a name? Let me see, a name… A name…

『Your name is **Urushi**[1]!』

Jet Black contains the character Urushi[2], and the dark red hairs occasionally mixed in with its mane is also associated with the lacquer tree. Furthermore, the wolf has control over the Poison attribute, which relates to how a lacquer tree can give one a rash. Even though I thought about it in the spur of the moment, I think it's a good name.

〈〈**Christening**〉of the Onyx Wolf complete〉
〈Onyx Wolf is evolving〉

Eh? Evolution? I only named it, though? What's going on? Is it because its magic is running out of control? Can someone explain what's happening?

As I thought such things, the Onyx Wolf in front of me transformed just as the announcement said it would.

〈Urushi has evolved into a Darkness Wolf〉

「*AOOOOooooo!*」

It's lively all of a sudden. Is its magic discharge alright?

Name : Urushi
Race : Darkness Wolf : Demonic Wolf : Demonic Beast
State : Contracted

Status: Level 1
HP : 451 MP : 670 STR : 216 END : 217 AGI : 310 INT : 202 MGC : 441

Skills:
Darkness Resistance : Lv8, Darkness Magic : Lv1, Keen Smell : LvMax, Stea

Unique Skills:
Predation Absorption

Titles:
Kin of the Sword, Kin of the Wolf God

Description:
A Highbreed Wolf Demonic Beast capable of manipulating the Darkness

Magic Stone Location : Heart Cavity

This fellow is huge. It was already quite large as an Onyx Wolf, but now it's at least twice that size. Onyx was cattle-rank, but the tip of a Darkness Wolf's foot to their shoulder exceeds 3 meters.

A sense of dignity flows from its deep, gold eyes as it glares at the surroundings. Its fangs are as sharp as daggers, and its limbs are more burly than even a bear's. Its black hair is the only thing that it kept through its evolution, sparkling with a peculiar gleam. Ir resembles the sky of a starry night, shimmering depending on the angle it's seen from, and holding a mysterious beauty.

In addition, it's quite strong. Its Threat Level is C. Also, as its

description said, its stealth-related Skills are quite considerable, with an Assassin-like Skill configuration. Its magic is also quite substantial.

When I compare it to the Tyrant Saber of the same rank it's inferior physically, but their magic are leagues apart. That's how it is.

「Abrupt evolution? Could this be… A Darkness Wolf? It's my first time seeing one…」

For even Amanda to only see it for the first time, is a Darkness Wolf *that* rare?

「Moreover, there's a flow of magic connected to Fran's sword?」

Ugee… It was completely seen through! The danger towards Urushi fell, but I have a feeling that her interest towards me rose in return…

「Amazing… I knew that it was a Magic Sword, but to think that it was a Demonic Beast Weapon…… Furthermore, you don't see one with a Demonic Beast of Threat Level C lodged inside every day.」

Demonic Beast Weapon? Judging by her words, it seems to be a weapon that Demonic Beasts reside within. *Hmm*, so there're weapons like that too…

Ah, not now, ***Fran***!

『Urushi, can you understand me? If you do, raise your right paw.』
「*Oon*」

sa

Urushi raises its right forepaw.

『Next, your left hind leg.』
「*Oon*」
『Alright, this time raise your left forepaw and right hind leg at the

same time. Can you do that?』
「*UoOon*」

Well, it seems that it can understand my words. In addition, I feel that I can understand Urushi's feelings somehow or another. A sense of motivation is currently coming from it. Perhaps that's thanks to Telepathy?

I'll disregard Amanda muttering「C-Cute…」for now.

『Do you know where Fran is? She is my wielder.』
「***Oon***」

Urushi smells me with a **kun-kun**, then closes its eyes for a couple of seconds and howls **woo-woo**. It seems to have been using its Skills one way or another.

『Well?』
「*Aoo—on!*」

Urushi howls loudly before biting onto my handle and lifting me up.

『I'm not heavy?』
「*Hwuoon!*」

Because I'm in its mouth its bark sounds a bit silly, but because Urushi is huge, even if I'm being lifted with its mouth there doesn't seem to be a problem.

With that, Urushi runs through the cave with a terrifying speed. Please be safe, Fran!

『Alright Urushi, hurry!』
「***Huohuon!***」

Ensig:
There's an Author's note about the Transition Traps here,

apologizing that their range wasn't fully described (i.e. they work as an AoE Trap rather than a Single-Target Trap), which was already changed when I Translated said chapters.
There's also a note regarding the reason it wasn't described in detail which, in summary, is because of the Author's irl stuff.

Because we're inhabitants of the future, I won't translate that stuff.

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[1] Urushi is the raw translation of 'ウルシ', which was left that way without being compounded as '漆'. The proper translation for both is Lacquer, or more specifically Lacquer Trees, which will explain the proceeding lines.

[2] Urushi = 漆. Jet Black = 漆黒.

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 52: Heading for Fran

Author's Note:
It's a bit short, sorry.

Urushi, who is holding me in its mouth, runs vigorously. Will I be able to reunite with Fran just like this? No, wait, isn't this bad?

「Wait! There's a trap!」

Amanda shouts such words from behind. The worst possible outcome would be to have a Transition Trap activate right now.

『Urushi, because there're traps here be careful!』
「*Ohwn?*」
『You're unconcerned?』

That's right, it has Aerial Jump Lv8, doesn't it. So long as it doesn't step on the trap, it won't be activated. Furthermore, there seems to be magical power within Urushi's eyes. I believe it's Dark Magic, but... Hmm.

Perhaps it's a magic that allows one to see the locations of traps? That would explain why Urushi occasionally makes unnatural movements, seemingly avoiding something. Well, regardless, it seems that it has a trap-sensory system in place.

No traps have been activated at all thus far. However, after running about 300 meters from the small room, Urushi suddenly stops in place.

『Urushi?』
「*Hwoon?*」
『Where is Fran?』

Urushi places me on the ground and sits down in place.

「**Hah-hah-hah-hah**」
『Not **hah-hah** –』
「*On**Oon!***」

All of a sudden, Urushi starts scratching at the wall, digging with great vigor.

『*Eh*? Is she perhaps on the other side of that wall?』
「*Ohn*」
「Is Fran over there, by any chance?」

With a face of astonishment, Amanda approaches. Or rather, how the heck did she manage to keep up with Urushi?! — No, in terms of AGI Amanda should be higher, so perhaps that's only natural?

「――Wind・Vortex!」

Using Storm Magic, Amanda shatters the wall.

『A hidden passage!』
「This Dungeon… It's because of places like this that I hate it. Even detection spells from Wind Magic wouldn't have worked.」

This place must be an end location for Transition Traps, one meant solely for imprisoning people.

I've searched for presences within, but I can only feel signs of Spiders. Is she really there? I can only feel an indescribable sense of unease.

『Urushi, *go*!』
「*Oon!*」

Urushi uses Aerial Jump and runs nimbly over the ground.

『There!』

Amazing, Urushi! She really was here! I can see Fran!

However–

『S-She is… Fighting…?』

Fran was at the far end of the passage, alive and moving.

However, she was surrounded by small spiders. Spider larvae, most likely. Those spiders clustered around Fran one after another. Even if they're weak alone, their number is clearly dangerous!

『Urushi, hurry!』
「***Hwon!***」

However, I notice something strange. In Fran's hand is something akin to a dagger, a weapon that she shouldn't have had. What is that? Fran should have been unarmed… Was luck on her side, allowing her to find it from a treasure chest?

No, that's not the case. It seems to be the Hidden Claw Necklace that we took from Gyuran. If it's imbued with magic power a dagger-like claw protrudes from the inside, but its efficiency isn't good.

『Run away, Fran!』

It's no use. She's not within the range of Telepathy yet. But why is she not running away…? The reason why Fran refused to escape despite being surrounded by spiders was clear after taking a closer look.

Behind her were the figures of two fallen Humans. They were Clad's party members who had transitioned together.

Fran was trying to protect them.

『Fran!』

Damn, these small fry spiders are irritating! Even if I try to use Magic, because these guys' webs are in the way the spiders surrounding Fran wouldn't be affected in the slightest.

『The level of your Sword Arts is low, Fran!』

Fighting in such a state is suicide!

I could only watch as spiders jumped on Fran. Not good! The current Fran can't fight that number of — no. She can…?

Her movements are certainly slower, but the way she's wielding the blade isn't that bad. She cuts down a small spider and dodges the shot threads nimbly. Was Sword Arts Lv1 ever that strong? Ah, another one was cut down.

However, the cluster of small spiders remains on the offensive. Climbing along the wall, they've started aiming for the fainted Adventurers this time. Fran makes use of the Hidden Fang immediately, but it isn't enough to stop the spiders. All at once, the Spiders pounce.

『Fran, don't be reckless!』

Using her body as a shield, Fran puts her life on the line to protect the adventurers. With that, the fangs of the small spiders make their way into Fran's flesh.

Blood…! Furthermore, a big one has…! A parent spider?!

With the parent spider's momentum, she was thrown to the ground.

『***UOOooooo!*** *Mooveee!*』
「***OOoon!***」

Chapter 53: Exceeding the Limit

Ensig:
There's an Author's Note about how Fran's Sword Arts was mistakenly Lv7 back when she was introduced and that it's been changed.
At the current time, the change has already been made, so… Enjoy.

Fran was overwhelmed by the parent spider. From the spider's mouth, sharp fangs are clearly visible.

The moment I saw those… My thoughts became seething.

Will I be exposed to Amanda? –Just what are you worrying about, foolish me! Focus on what's important!

『***UOOooooo!*** *Mooveee!*』
「***OOoon!***」
『――Fire･Javelin!』

Kyuiiiiin — **BOb**O**O**B**O**O**B**O**O**N**!**

Urushi launches jet black arrows that mow down the spiders, and my spear of flame pierces through the obstructive cobwebs, setting them on fire in the process.

A little less than 20 spiders were obliterated all at once.

『Damn…!』

However, that was all.

Even more Spiders squirmed out at the end of the passage. Their flame resistance was considerably higher when compared to Trap Spiders.

『In that case——』

I'll just have to pierce through with Telekinesis Catapult! It had been 10 seconds since we found Fran, and since that time I've continued stockpiling Telekinesis. Doing so was subconscious. It had already been ingrained as a habit. Just like how a Swordsman would place their hand on their blade's handle at the first signs of battle, I stored Telekinesis.

However, until now I had hesitated to release it. I was mindful of Amanda, after all.

But it wasn't just that, either. Somewhere down the line I had started feeling that it would be useless. Because I clashed against the spiders of this Dungeon, I know firsthand the hardness of the spiders and the strength of their webs. And so, I came to the understanding that a simple Telekinesis Catapult wouldn't be enough to reach Fran.

And so, what was I to do?

『Just exceed the limit!』

I actually put the power of my usual Telekinesis Catapults to the 'limit' every time. They genuinely make use of my 'full power'.

However, is there really a limit? No. There has never been such a thing.

The 'limit' I've used thus far was placed by myself to secure a margin of safety. It was a limit placed so that I could come out of the attack unscathed. So, if that's how it is, then I'll simply remove the limiter.

Exceed the limit!

My magic power rushes wildly into my blade. Even I don't know how much magic I've channeled anymore! *However*, I'm still in control!

Not yet. I need more power! I cloak myself in flames using Sword Attribute, bringing it to the limits of my magic as well!

My blade becomes red-hot, glowing in the dark cave. Urushi, feeling the immense heat, releases me. I've reached a temperature that's started to slightly melt my blade, so that was obvious.

The spiders coming from the passage, sensing the oncoming catastrophe, spew thread towards me… But it's useless. Just by approaching my scathing form, the threads burn up and disappear.

『You spiders are a hindrance! ***Get out of my way!***』

GyuudOOOoooOOOooo**O**!**

I set off the accumulated Telekinesis, resulting in an explosion.

With unprecedented acceleration, I incinerate and pierce through the wall of spiderwebs. The multitude of strong cobwebs that had been set up were like paper. Even with the hard shell of a spider, once touched by my flames they became nothing but cinders.

If it was the usual Telekinesis Catapult, I would have been trapped in the thread halfway through… But not this time. With the intensity of the heat and shockwave, any spiders in my path were crushed.

And with that, I was able to pass through the defensive wall built by the spiders. Just as I did so, I invoked Telekinesis Catapult once more. However, this time it was facing the opposite direction.

『***UOOoooaaah!***』

Presently, I'm a cannonball. Even if I don't hit something directly, destruction spreads through the shockwave alone. And so, if I got too close to Fran she would also be damaged. Therefor, my solution is to use Telekinesis to slam on the brakes. The cobwebs can also be used for this purpose.

『**Get away from Fran, you damn spider!**』

I rush directly to the parent spider and, as usual, pierce its magic stone. Overcome by the Telekinesis, the spider can only convulse before being blown away.

After that, I use Recovery Magic on Fran immediately.

『――Heal!』

It's a low-grade spell, but it prioritizes speed. She should be safe for the time being.

Now, how is she?

Name : Fran　Age : 12
Race : Black Cat Beastman
Job : Magic Swordsman
State : Contracted・Poisoned (Deadly)・Light-headed

Status:　Level : 25
HP : 106/250　MP : 31/166
STR : 120　END : 109　AGI : 110
INT : 75　MGC : 87　DEX : 88

Skills:
Stealth : Lv1, Court Etiquette : Lv4, Presence Perception : Lv1, Sword Tech

Titles:
Match for a Thousand, Insect Slayer, King of Dismantling, Master of Rec

Inflicted with Deadly Poison and Light-headedness, her remaining HP is 106. I need to heal her at once! Frantically, I use Antidote and Greater・Heal, bringing her to a perfect condition.

『*Fuu*... I can feel relieved with this……』

Just in case, I use Heal and Antidote on Clad's comrades, too.

They're idiots who rolled up Fran in their own mistakes, but I'll forgive them for the sake of Fran who risked her life for them.

For now, it seems she's fallen asleep, but what happened to the other spiders, I wonder?

「*Auun?*」
『Urushi, when did you–! Ah! Shadow Movement, huh.』

How dangerous, being able to surprise even me. I had completely forgotten! If we had made use of its Shadow Movement, it would have been far easier to arrive here……

In the middle of the pile of spiders Urushi exterminated, it held something in its mouth. Oi, isn't that a spider leg?!

Haa… Just thinking about the food expenses for this fellow is going to give me a headache…

Well, it's good that it annihilated them at least.

『Fran. Fran?』
「…… *Nn*?」
『Are you awake?』
「Teacher?」
『*Ou*. Everything's alright.』
「The spider?」
『It's gone.』
「I see.」

That reminds me, when I looked at Fran's Status she achieved Sword Arts Lv3. She even gained Sword Techniques and Vigor Manipulation. Incidentally, Instantaneous Movement and Cooking also showed up. When we met, she didn't have such Skills. It seems that even with me Equipped, Fran will still gain proficiency.

Furthermore, even when the Set Skills disappeared her Titles remained. Master of Fire, for example.

However, isn't her growth quite fast? In a month, her Sword Arts has improved by two Levels... Perhaps that's due to my influence? Maybe using high-level Skills has a good effect on the growth of Skills in general?

Regardless, her gaining Skills is of little importance right now. Even without them, Fran's fighting spirit still would have persisted, even while poisoned and surrounded by spiders.

『You did well.』
「Teacher: tattered.」
『Well... Only a little.』

The compensation for using magic power beyond the limit of a regular Telekinesis Catapult was larger than I thought.

Combined with the magic I used to slow myself down, I consumed more than 1,200 MP. That's more than four times the cost of a usual Telekinesis Catapult. On top of that, I only have 800 Durability remaining. Even with using Telekinesis used to slow down my momentum, that much damage was still taken. It would have been dangerous if I collided with a firm obstacle at that speed.

A deep crack has spreads through the middle of my blade, and the parts that had been melted by heat have become black. I'm partially destroyed without a doubt. If a common sword became like this, disposal would be immenent.

『When a bit of time passes, I'll recover.』
「Nn……」
『Hey, hey, what's with that face?』
「My fault.」
『That's not the case. It's the result of my foolishness. I should have controlled myself a bit more.』

It was more difficult to control magic beyond the usual limit than I

thought. To be frank, it was difficult to adjust the amount of magic power I made use of.

However, through this event I think I've found the true value of the Sorcery Skill. So far, I've been looking at it as a substitute for a high rank Magic Perception Skill that can increase the power of Magic by raising the degree of magic power imbued.

However, it's more than that. Because it allows me to understand the flow of magic, I can imbue magic power beyond natural limits, and because I can understand the flow of magic, I can just barely control it. An overboost of magic is possible, so to speak. Doing so is a double-edged sword, however.

『Well, it's fine so long as you're safe.』
「Thank you.」

The deep impression of a teacher and pupil reuniting. That was the atmosphere that should have been given off... If no one else was around, that is.

「H-Hey... Did that sword move on its own? Moreover, it seemed to have shouted several times..... It used magic as well, and–」

I forgot about Amanda—! Well, I was prepared for this to some extent, but I completely forgot about her halfway through!

I got too impatient and shouted through Telepathy... Even though it usually only reaches who I intend it to... At the time, it was transmitted in all directions. Naturally, Amanda would have heard my voice.

I even used magic to fly via Telekinesis, so...

「Nn...」
「Ah, wait. It's alright. You don't have to talk about it if you don't want to. I'm sorry.」
「?」

「It's just, I asked you unconsciously. So, only tell me if you really want to. Everyone has their own circumstances.」

Even if you say that, you definitely heard me speak, right? What's the point in hiding it? There is none, right?

(Teacher?)
『Fran, do you want to tell Amanda?』
(Nn…)

You've taken to her quite a bit, huh. Well, I had felt that was the case after the mock battle, but… Well, if Fran wants to tell her, I won't object.

「Amanda.」
「Ye—s?」
「It's like this ——」

– 3 Minutes Later –

Amanda is unreasonably excited.

「When you're talking about Intelligent Weapons, they're the weapons that make their own decisions, the things that're mentioned in fairy-tales, right? *Kyaa!* They really exist!」

She's surprised after seeing one for the first time. Intelligent Weapons are rare, as expected.

However, it seems that part of the reason for her high spirits stems from the fact that she was confided in with such a deep secret.

「Thank you for telling me, Fran! And… Teacher?」
『*Ou*.』
「Amazing… You really can speak~」
『Well, please treat me well from now on.』
「Yes. Same here! I'll take the secret of you two to the grave! Also, consult me about anything you have trouble with, alright? I'll help

Fran's friends anytime.」
「Nn.」
「I have the Title Guardian of Children, feel free to rely on me as well, alright?」
「Thank you.」
「*A—h*, so cu—te! If it's for Fran, I'll do anything!」

Well, it's good that we confided in her. I didn't really want to do something so boorish, but I made use of Law of Lies as well. All of Amanda's words are true. In other words, Amanda really would do anything for Fran.

『How nice, Fran.』
「Nn.」
「*Ahh*, but I really want Fran to know that flustered feeling Teacher was giving off before striking the spider~! I was surprised to hear『Fran, don't be reckless!』coming from a sword, you know?」
「Teacher: flustered?」
『*O-Ou*. I'm ashamed.』
「Because Wolfie[1] jumped without warning, I couldn't provide cover fire with magic, too. It'd get caught up in it if I did... I was quite flustered, myself~!」
「*Owuu*...」

I'm 100% no-good! In a haste-ridden panic I made error after error! There should have been way more methods to choose from! I should have requested Amanda for help or used Urushi's Shadow Movement from the beginning...!

Haa... Not just Fran, I have a lot to learn too...

---

[1] Amanda calls Urushi 'Wolf-chan' (オオカミちゃん) here.

Chapter 54: Urushi and Fran

「This dog is?」
『Dog…?』
「*Wuu…*」

As expected, it must be pitiful to be seen as a mere dog.

『It's something I summoned.』
「I was surprised when it came out all of a sudden~」
『Fran, this is Urushi. It's a Darkness Wolf that, as I said, arrived via my summons.』
「Urushi?」
「*Kuun*」
「Good boy.」

When Fran strokes its head, Urushi raises a joyful voice.

「There, there.」
「*Whuu*」

… This guy *is* a Wolf, right? It's acting just like a big dog would…

「Nn.」
「*Hah, hah, hah*」
「Cute.」

As the nape of its neck, its muzzle, and its chin are rubbed Urushi closes its eyes out of pleasure and licks Fran's face. Hey, hey, didn't you eat a giant Spider just a little while ago? You should probably wipe up your face, Fran…

Well, that aside, Fran's safe so how should we proceed? I guess first we should meet up with the rest of the Adventurers. I was a bit impatient so I didn't worry about it before, but this Dungeon was dangerous for Clad and Frion, right? If they ended up dying I'd have

trouble sleeping at night.

「Hey, you guys, get up.」
「***Uu***..... *Nnh*...」
「Huh...? Where...?」
「In a panic, you guys triggered a Transition Trap and got caught up in its effects.」
「Ah, right, the lil' kid was too!」
「'S she a'right?」

It seems that after becoming unable to fight after being transferred, these two passed out due to poisoning and bleeding. However, while in a light-headed state, they caught glimpses of Fran defending them.

「Y'saved us.」
「Thank you.」

Oh-ho. The fact that they bowed their heads is worthy of praise considering they're Clad's companions. If they had acted haughty towards their benefactor I would have punished them a bit.

「*Ohn*」
「*Uwo!* What's that?!」
「W-W-W-Wolf! It's a Demonic Beast!」

They didn't react very well, huh. They're finding it hard to even stand up — or should I say that they've been completely paralyzed from shock? They're just sitting on their backsides looking up at Urushi with desperate expressions.

「A-A-Amanda! Please, save us!」
「*Oou?*」
「*Hii!* Its tongue! Its tongue is–!」
「Urushi, no.」
「*KUUuuu*...」

When Amanda explains that Urushi is Fran's companion the two manage to settle down.

「T' make such an 'ighly ranked Demonic Beast yer companion...!」
「S' th' first time I've seen a Demonic Beast Weapon!」

After saying so, their eyes became full of respect towards Fran once again. They're completely captivated by Fran. It seems like they'll begin calling her 'Big Sis' any moment now.

「Ah, anyways, what'll we do now?」
「Yeah, where're th' others?」
「They went looking for you guys.」

How should we go about finding everyone else...?

「Urushi: look for Humans?」
「***Oon!***」

With that, Urushi laid down and stared at Fran.

「Ride?」
「*On, Oon!*」
「Nn. Thank you.」
「Oh my, it's quite intelligent, isn't it?」

Urushi's back is still high up even when it lays down, so Fran simply climbs up.

「Soft...」
「*Aun!*」

Fran holds onto the back of Urushi's neck, and I fix her in place using Telekinesis. Like this, she won't be shaken off.

But what should we do about Adventurer A and B? They won't be able to keep up with us on foot, but it's dangerous if we leave them here. Should we ask Amanda to escort them?

「Urushi: carry?」
「*Onn*」

Urushi gently looks up at Fran and gives her a short nod.

「Like dogs?」
「Huh? Tha's kinda abrupt, lil' lady... Dogs... Well, I guess I like dogs, but–」
「Alright.」
「Eh? *Uoo–!*」

Urushi lifts the nape of Adventurer A's leather armor with its mouth, just like how a parent cat would carry its kittens.

『Are you alright with giving them a lift?』
（*Wafuun!*）

Well, alright, but don't pick up Fran like that.

「Then, I'll carry you.」
「Eh? Amanda will?」
「That's right, so behave yourself alright?」
「*Uwaa!*」

Amanda picked up Adventurer B and placed him under her arm despite him clearly being larger than her. What an odd sight to behold.

「Then, let's go.」
「*Hwoooon!*」

With that, Urushi starts running. By the way, I've been sheathed and am assuming my usual position on Fran's back. I've sealed up the crack on my blade for the time being, but I should wait until we leave the dungeon for a complete recovery. Until then, I'll just have to patiently settle with emergency repairs.

「Urushi: amazing. Running through the sky.」

『That's thanks to Aerial Jump Lv8.』

Unlike Aerial Jump Lv1 that we possess with effects similar to multistage jumping, Lv8 allows Urushi to perfectly run through the air. It seems that it's quite a pleasant experience for Fran.

「Spiders ahead.」

5 Trick Spiders can be seen heading towards us.

「Go.」
「*Hhwoon!*」

Oi, oi, Urushi, even if you don't plan on slowing down there's no reason to speed up, right? Even the pitiful screams of the Adventurers are being ignored.

「*Huhoon!*」

Called upon by Urushi's roar, jet black spears rain down on the spiders. Furthermore, the spiders on the left and right were torn to pieces and scattered about just as Urushi entered the next passageway. Most likely, it was Urushi's doing when its forepaws moved at lightning speed.

『――Flare・Blast!』
「――Fire・Arrow」
「――Wind・Cutter!」

In the nest-covered passageway, magic is fired in rapid succession to create a way through. Although the strength of the nests themselves are considerable, they're unable to endure the continuous barrage. Like that, we run through the cave without stopping while eliminating any spiders along the way.

「There's no response.」
「*Hii... Hii...*」
「*Ha... Hah...*」

Amanda mutters so with a composed expression, while the two Adventurers look like they're barely holding onto their lives.

After running for a while, we arrive in front of an especially large passage. Inside was a large amount of spiders. Because of the numerous nests set up in the vicinity it's hard to see, but seriously, the number of spiders here is amazing. However, the presence of Humans can also be felt. Most likely, these presences belong to Cruz and the others. How is it that they managed to break through to this point? Perhaps there's an alternate entrance?

Well, either way, we won't be stopped by something of this level. Firing magic in rapid succession, we break through the passage and arrive at some sort of great hall. It's about double the size of the room we fought Army Beetles in at the Goblin Nest.

Spiders jostled around in such a room. Not only on the floor, nests had been set up all over the ceiling and walls, amounting to more than 50 total. Inside that spider-filled hall was Cruz, as well as the others. Isn't it unreasonably dangerous to challenge this room with their fighting potential? Testament to that, they were cornered against a wall. Some of them had Status abnormalities.

「Damn it, e'en if I cut an' slice 'em...!」
「If the path of retreat wasn't blocked off...!」

It seems that they went too far in and got trapped.

At the center of the spiders was a remarkably large spider. Poisonous-looking purple hair is grown over its entire body, arousing a feeling of discomfort.

Race : Trickster Spider : Demonic Bug : Demonic Beast Lv13
HP : 196 MP : 110 STR : 71 END : 89 AGI : 103 INT : 61 MGC : 45 DEX

Skills:
Keen Hearing : Lv5, Playback : Lv3, Leap : Lv1, Poison Spray : Lv3, Lasso : L

Description:
A Highbreed of the Trick Spider species, this demonic beast makes use of

Magic Stone Location: Head

So it was present in the Dungeon after all. A Trickster Spider. Its Status far surpasses the other spiders, too.

It's the boss of the spiders that caused Fran to have a terrible experience!

『Alright, let's take our revenge!』
「Nn.」
「***OOooon!***」

← | **Main** | →

Chapter 55: Do Tricksters Feel Fear?

Just as I raised a shout in front of the hoard of spiders, I heard a pitiable scream.

「*Uwaa*! H-Help!」
「Leader!」
「Big bro[1]!」

Adventurer A was already released, and B rushed forward in a panic.

Hmm. It appears that Clad's been wound up with thread, rendered to a state that he'd probably be dragged into the cobwebs. Rather than being Poisoned, he's been Paralyzed. He's in quite a pinch.

『Shall we help? Urushi, to the Adventurers.』
「*Onn*」
「Nn. ――Fire・Arrow!」

Magic is cast to burns down the spider's cobwebs, but...

「*Achichichi*! Hot!」

The flames streamed down the thread, coiling around Clad himself as well. His hair might get a bit singed, but he won't die.

「***AOOooooooon!***」

With that Urushi unleashed jet black arrows, defeating the spiders surrounding the Adventurers. I don't know if the spiders are intelligent enough to consciously feel fear, but after witnessing Urushi's strength they edged back.

Well, the reactions of the Adventurers was more terrible, though.

「***Uwaaa!***」
「W-What the hell is this guy?!」
「*Hii*! This magic power is…!」
「A-an Onyx Wolf?」
「Idiot! This is way stronger!」
「I di'n hear anythin' 'bout this!」
「Damn it…! Everyone calm down!」

They had just been struggling against Rank E Demonic Beasts, so it's understandable that they'd fall into a panic when something of a higher rank appeared in front of them.

「No, wait! Amanda's over there!」
「An' on its back, ain't that the lil' lady?!」
「Ehh?」

They seem to have noticed somehow or another. With this, we won't have to worry about Cruz jumping out and attacking. Alright, as for our arch-nemesis the Trickster Spider――

「Bleed out and die!」

DoGASHK****

「This is the consequence of doing such a terrible thing to Fran!」

Amanda's whip was breaking the Trickster Spider into pieces. Its Magic Stone was being shattered, too.

Well, of course it'd be an instant kill. Trickster Spiders are only Threat Level C due to how troublesome they are with the Trap Remodeling Skill, right? In terms of status, they're closer to Threat Level D. Still, to be finished off so easily…

『*Eh* ―― Ms. Amanda…?』
「Eh?」

I sent Telepathy to Amanda unintentionally.

「*Ah!*」

Turning in place, Amanda's has an expression of 'I really did it now!' plastered on her face.

I had told her about my ability to absorb Magic Stones only a short while ago. In fact, didn't she promise to give us the Trickster Spider's Magic Stone? Wasn't it something like an unspoken agreement? No, maybe it was foolish to believe her carefree 'I'll hand it over~'?

In that case, I, who didn't make her promise properly, am in the wrong...

「W-Well, now we can take out the rest of the spiders!」

She's trying to gloss it over!

「Right, Fran!」

... It can't be helped. We should give priority to exterminating the other spiders for now.

「Nn, let's do it.」
「*Grruuuu!*」
『In that case, let's make them feel the true meaning of despair!』

As a barrage of Fire Magic is immediately released, the frenzied dance of Magic began.

Amanda's Wind Magic cut down the spiders on the ceiling together with their nests, Urushi's Dark Magic skewered the spiders to the walls, and our Fire Magic burnt down the spiders over wide areas. Even Frion participated, binding the spiders in place by wrapping ivy coils around their bodies.

The best part, however, was when Amanda used Storm Magic on the ceiling, finishing off all the spiders all at once. Perhaps this is

Amanda being serious? The magic didn't affect the Adventurers at all... It was perfectly under control.

「As expected of Amanda.」
「*Oh*—? I was praised by Fran!」

Her bashful figure in response to being praised doesn't seem strong at all, though.

Once we finished, what was left of the spiders was littered across the floor. Although they're quite tattered, there should be usable materials here and there. Magic Stones should also be scattered about.

『Urushi, look for Magic Stones.』
「*Auf*」

At the very least I have to secure a Magic Stone from a Trick Spider, so I asked Urushi to reserve a couple of them for me. Urushi, who has a good nose, found them one after another.

Moreover, it's stowing away them inside of the shadows. It's an application of Shadow Lurk, most likely. How convenient.

「You two, um, er... That wolf...」

Cruz and the others approach cautiously. They made it out alive, but it seems that some of them are in pain. The Poison in their bodies must have started taking effect.

『Fran.』
「Nn. ——Antidote! Anti・Paralyze!」
「*Ooh*...! We're saved!」

Frion sat down on the spot, probably out of relief. There was even a guy who started crying. Well, it's good that no one ended up dying.

「So, this fellow... Is it possibly an Onyx Wolf?」

「Different. Darkness Wolf.」
「Ehh?」
「This is the first one I've seen!」
「Seriously…?」

So noisy. Well, it's a rare Demonic Beast that even Amanda hadn't seen before, but…

「Miss Fran?」
「Nn.」
「I've never seen such a strong Summon before… Rather, Isn't it a bit strange that you're only Rank D if you can summon this?」

Frion's eyes shine while he watches Urushi, seemingly losing his inner battle against his curiosity. Perhaps he's a researcher-type?

Anyways, doesn't it stick out a bit too much? We'll attract too much attention when we get back to town… And whether it could even stay in an inn is questionable.

Truth be told, I've tried to un-summon Urushi, but it doesn't look like it's possible. It seems that it's the type of summon that simply remains summoned.

Also on that note, with normal Summoning, magic is consumed so long as the Summon is around. In this case, however, magic was only consumed during the Summoning process. I'm quite thankful for that.

『Urushi. Using Shadow Lurk, can you hide in Fran's shadow?』
(*Ohn*)

After responding via Telepathy, Urushi sinks into Fran's shadow. *Ohh*, it was instantaneous. Furthermore, there's no sign of it at all. Because I have the Sorcery Skill I can just barely identify its presence, but it would be extremely difficult for lower-ranked Adventurers to notice.

『When it town, can you possibly remain inside her shadow?』
「*Kuu……*」
『No good?』
「*Onn*」
『It's just that you'd stick out a bit too much in town. It's possible that you'll be attacked on sight, you know?』
「*Ouu…*」

Urushi's ears lay flat with a **petan**, making what seems to be a sad expression. *Muu…* Even if you make a face like that, it's not like you were forced into her shadow.

（Teacher, a plea from me as well.）
『No, but that's…』
（No good?）
（*Ohnon?*）

How sly! Having four round eyes directed at me is no fair! To the people in the surroundings, this is only a strange scene of a man and beast staring at one another, though.

「*Oon!*」
『What? Did you detect something?』
「***Aooo****oon*」

Ohh? With its howl, Urushi began shrinking! Within seconds it became the size of a common large-sized dog.

『Is this perhaps the Shapeshift Skill? I had thought that it was a Skill that allowed its user to change its form to another Demonic Beast…』
「*On, oon*」
「*Kya—a*! It became so small! It's so cute! *Ahh*, I want one too!」

No no, it's small if you compare its size from a minute ago, but it's still plenty large… Well, if it's like this, maybe it's tolerable for town?

『*Haa*... It can't be helped. Can you retain this form when we're in town?』
「***Onn!***」
(Thank you Teacher. With this I can mofumofu[2] Urushi all the time.)

Fran, was that your reason for pleading with me...? Well, I want to mofumofu Urushi as well, you know!

A-Anyways, there's no helping it. I'm the one who summoned it, so I have to take care of it properly. When the time comes, should we take it out on walks? On that note, I guess there's no real need for a leash? Hm... It's really turned into the feeling of having a pet dog, huh.

「Best regards mofumo– Urushi.」
「*Oon?*」

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[1] Adventurer B shouts out 'クラッドの兄貴' or 'Clad-aniki'. Because I've been fully changing the text to English and simply ignoring honorific titles (while sometimes mentioning them in Footnotes), putting in -aniki here would be out of place. Thus the translation.

[2] Since there was a chapter that had 'mofumofu' in the title, I'm not sure if this needs mentioning, but... 'mofumofu' (モフモフ) is literally 'soft to the touch', but in context it essentially means 'cuddle'. It can also be used as a sound effect which is why, to my understanding, it's used as an onomatopoeia regardless of context.
Still, because I've been fully translating the text to English, I'm willing to change it if that's desired. Leave a comment.

Chapter 56: The Core Room

Ensig:
The Author made a note of changing one of Amanda's lines in Chapter 53, but it's just a grammatical error.
They also changed the Trickster Spider's threat level from C to D in Chapter 54. Because these changes were already made prior to this Translation, I won't bother translating them.

※※※

After exterminating the spiders our party made its way to the Dungeon Core room.

「That over there is the Magic Ore.」
「*Hooh*. So this is Magic Ore in its purest form? It's quite amazing.」
「Ain't this th' same as a pile a' treasure?!」

Clad's eyes shine as he rushes towards the Magic Ore.

「*Pu*–」
「Don't you laugh, damn it! Jus' who d'you think is at fault fer this!」
「Your life-saver.」
「*Gu*–」
「The cost of life.」
「I-I know already!」

Clad's hair had been burnt from Fran's Fire Magic, so it was shaved off. However, because it was a bit hard to cut it all using a dagger, several places remained unshaven. It's amusing to look at, no matter how many times I see it. The fact that we could have solved his hair issue using Greater・Heal is a secret.

「*Pfhuhu*...」
「Shit...」

Every time Amanda and Fran looked towards him, they fought a losing battle against their withheld laughter.

「Yeah, yeah. Now then, Ms. Amanda: please collect the Magic Ore.」
「Ok.」
「Everyone who has an Item Bag, please do so as well.」
「Nn.」

Anyways, there sure is a lot of it. The Core room is completely filled with high-purity Magic Ore ingots. If I'm not mistaken, Magic Ore is quite precious, and is useful when making weapons.

「I'm sure you're all aware, but information regarding this place is confidential. Upon speaking about it the Pledge will immediately be broken, thus notifying not only the Guild, but the Country as well. That being the case, please be careful.」
「We had no problem entering because we had permission, in the case an outsider enters the vicinity a Barrier would immediately detect them.」
「Fran should be careful too, ok? Otherwise the Guild Master will become noisy.」
「Why go so far?」
「Well, there's a lot of Magic Ore here, right?」
「Yes?」
「That's exactly why. Characteristics between Dungeons Cores vary, most notably regarding the amount of magic power needed to produce certain items. In this Dungeon, Magic Ore with high purity can be created with very little magic power.」

I see, so that's why it isn't open to the public.

After all the Magic Ore was packed away, Cruz took a look at the Core's settings. If its state is as normal, only Trap Spiders should be listed as spawns.

「How is it, Cruz? Are all the Trick Spiders exterminated?」
「It's reported back more than one species.」

Although their numbers were significantly reduced, the Trick Spiders weren't fully subjugated. In this case, if we leave them alone they'll just start breeding again. It's also possible that another Trickster Spider is out there. If we leave things as they are, not only will the difficulty of the Dungeon be raised, but the recovery of Magic Ore will become considerably harder as well.

There is, however, a good point to leaving the situation as it is.

In comparison to Trap Spiders, the materials from Trick Spiders are more useful, and thus more expensive. If they're recovered on a regular basis, it wouldn't be bad by any means. Furthermore, the Trick Spiders provide more magic power to the Core. As a result, the production of Magic Ore would also be influenced positively.

「Well, in cases like this ain't it better t' leave th' decision t' th' Guild?」
「That's indeed the case. On top of that, we'll have to report the finding of Human Bones.」

As it happens, we ended up finding what seemed to be brand-new bones within the hall we exterminated the hoard of spiders in. Moreover, there were enough for almost 10 people. Judging by their condition, we arrived at the conclusion that the individuals had died one or two months ago.

And yet, according to Cruz, reports of deaths in this Dungeon hadn't occurred for several years.

So, just where did all of those bones come from? A Barrier that perceives intruders made by an A Rank Adventurer with the nickname 'Barrier Salesman' is in effect at the Dungeon's entrance, so it should have been difficult for anyone to get in without permission, and yet… Well, it's quite the mystery.

「Then, for now let's return.」

◇◆◇

In regards to the journey back, there weren't any particular problems. Fran was defeated in a mock battle against Amanda again.

Urushi joined in as well, but both of them were beaten up. That being said, their cooperation improved considerably thanks to that battle; even Amanda was surprised.

Urushi's fighting style has a high level of versatility. First is in regards to its Magic. With the ability to use both Dark Magic and Poison Magic, it can play an active role through both frontal attacks, and attacks from unusual angles.

Second, with its Fang Techniques its direct attacks aren't something to scoff at. In particular, its use of Shadow Movement is terrific. It's the kind of surprise attack that a Fiend would use, but in Urushi's case, it's actually more efficient. It can attack using Dark Magic without exposing its body by hiding inside of shadows, and its ability to transition in and out of Fran's shadow at unexpected times could be seen as downright dirty. The distance it can transition in is a bit short, but that's not much of a problem in combat.

If the Demon from a while back could utilize magic in this way, we would have had no choice but to run away.

Anyways, as thanks for the training, we were taught a bit about about〈Christening〉. As a result, it was discovered that the reason for Urushi's evolution was undoubtedly Christening. Still, Fran had given me a name, so why was it that nothing happened?

Through Amanda's explanation, I figured that out as well.

Christening is essentially the act of a higher-ranked individual giving a name to a subordinate or retainer. However, not only a name is gained. Through Christening, something akin to a contract

is formed, strengthening the connection between both parties' souls.

The receiver of the name has their potential released, resulting in a raise in Status among a variety of other benefits.

In the case of Fran and I, she wasn't regarded as a higher ranked individual. So, while I gained a name, the act of receiving it wasn't exactly the same as taking part in the Christening ritual.

In Urushi's case, its potential was let loose and it evolved. Furthermore, it fully received the excess magic power that was running rampant in its body. In the case that I put off Christening… It most likely would have gone out of control, only to be subdued by Amanda. I'm very sorry, Urushi. You were in quite the pinch.

Anyways, the information I wanted to know most — the reason why Demonic Beasts of the Wolf type appeared in Summon Kin — remains unknown. I managed to infer a little, but there's just not enough information.

I'd like to research that alongside more detailed information on Magic in the library but… Well… Places where one has to sit still for long periods of time are Fran's weak point.

I suppose when it comes to fishing she'd be able to manage, though. Most things seem possible at the mention of all-you-can-eat curry.

Mhh. On the note of food, the size of the servings she's been eating have been increasing lately. She'll be dashing straight into the Gluttonous Character archetype if I leave it alone… I should definitely reduce the amount I'm serving her.

Ahh~, but I become so weak when she stares at me with those eyes. With Urushi in the picture, that stare's power has been amplified by two~

Chapter 57: Returning to Aressa

Ensig:
The Author left a note at the start and end of this chapter, relating to a double release the day of this chapter's posting, alongside the reason for it. I won't bother translating it because there's no need.

For those of you who don't find these chapters through my Posts here, note that there's now another person working with me on Sword-shisho: whey30, otherwise known as Pengu. They'll be translating on Fridays/Saturdays, while I'll translate Sun-Thurs.

When I feel like it, that is.

I'll put a note at the top of the chapter on who the TL and Editor are from now on.

◇ The day after we set out to return ◇

We've finally returned to the town of Aressa… But there's a bit of a commotion at the front gate.

『What's all the fuss about?』
「Lots of people.」

Certainly, a large number of Humans have gathered. I think I've seen them somewhere before, but… Where?

「Knights, huh. What's goin' on?」

Cruz's words jogged my memory. Their armor looks just like the set that Auguste was wearing. In fact, the man leading the group had armor even more luxuriously decorated than his.

「Small fry knights.」

「My my, that's well said.」
「Hey, wait a minute both of you… Please make sure not to say such things in front of the Knights! The only strong thing about them is their pride!」
「I know, I know.」
「Nn.」

I understood as well. To be frank, the public's impressions of the Chivalric Orders was low, but it wasn't to the level that they would openly antagonize towards them. Why was it that the Knights themselves picked quarrels despite that fact, I wonder?

『Well, for now… Urushi, make sure to stay quiet, alright?』
「*Onn*」

It's already in its miniature form, but Urushi's still attracting a decent amount attention. It'd be troublesome if the Knights quibbled with us because of this fact.

「Well, it's fine, isn't it? The leader seems to be Urs.」

That reminds me, the Guild Master had said that their leader was a respectable man.

「*Ohh*, is that you, Ms. Amanda?」
「Yeah. It's been a while.」
「Indeed it has! Having you here is quite reassuring!」

He's quite the lively old man, isn't he? He's shorter than Donna, but their expressions are largely the same. ― He could be described solely with the words 'Dandy Macho[1]'.

Name: Urs・Bendoro　Age: 52
Race: Human
Job: Shield Knight
State: Normal
Status:　Level: 50

HP: 527 MP: 223 STR: 218 END: 274 AGI: 132 INT: 103 MGC: 119
Skills:
Coercion: Lv3, Pugilist Arts: Lv4, Hardening: Lv4, Danger Perception: Lv
Titles:
Baron, Leader of Aressa's Knights, Defender
Equipment:
High-Quality Mithril Spear, High-Quality Adamantite Kite Shield, Sturd

He seems to be a bit stronger than Donna. However, while Donna is an attack-type Heavy-Warrior, Urs is a defense-type Heavy-Knight.

「Has something happened?」
「Yeah. There was a reaction to the Barrier. It seems that there's a Demonic Beast of Threat Level C nearby.」
「So you're heading out to subjugate it?」
「That's right. First, we have to place restrictions to the outside of the town, then we'll investigate the surroundings with a fine-toothed comb. We've issued a request for support from the Guild, too.」

Hmm. He really is an upright man, isn't he? He's something like a stereotypical Knight.

「There're a lot of young Knights…」
「*Ah*, they've joined the order for various reasons. A purge was performed, you see. Once the problematic people disappeared, the motivation from the youngsters increased.」

The 'problematic people' stemmed from Auguste, no doubt about it. Once he and his followers disappeared, more proper Knights must have taken their place.

Anyways, a Demonic Beast of Threat Level C, huh? It couldn't be–

Immediately, the eyes of the Adventurers who participated in the Dungeon investigation turned to Urushi, who sat itself down beside Fran.

「Urushi.」
「*On*」
「*Muoo!* T-That is… A Demonic Beast? Even if it's small, what a dreadful amount of magic power…!」
「Most likely, the Demonic Beast you guys detected was none other than Urushi.」
「…… Is it Ms. Amanda's familiar?」
「Nope. This is Fran's pet.」
「I see. This young lady…? Hm. Is she perhaps the girl who wields a Magic Sword from the rumors?」

It seems that the name of the before-mentioned Magic Sword wielding girl hasn't spread.

「Well, if it's familiar then it's fine, but… Can you distinguish it somehow?」
「Understood. Next time, wrap with a scarf before passing through. Have to issue a Familiar license later?」
「Got it. How about I just ask you a couple of questions for now, and I'll write down your answers on the official documentation?」
「Thoughtful.」
「Then first, you're positive this is a Darkness Wolf, correct?」
「Nn.」

After taking out a small piece of parchment, Urs starts writing. It seems that an official certificate is absolutely necessary to have a familiar.

「A—nd… What's its name?」
「Urushi.」
「Urushi. And you? What's your name?」
「Fran.」
「Next, what's it's gender?」
「…? One moment.」

Hm? That reminds me, I didn't check that either. It didn't think about that at all.

「*Hyuuin*!」

Kya—, Fran, how bold! She just walked behind Urushi, lifted up its tail, and confirmed whether or not anything was there! P-Perhaps it's simply because she's a child…? To Urushi, this whole ordeal must be a disaster.

「Male.」
「*Kuuuuun*……」
「O-Oh. Is that so.」

◇◆◇

After tying a red scarf around Urushi's neck, we were granted entry into Aressa. In accordance to the Familiar contract, we also received a crest to show that he was tame. It seems it's meant to be put on a collar or a similar item.

When we arrived at the Adventurer's Guild, there was a small uproar.

「…… Seriously, this time it's a C ranked familiar? It's not like you were a popular topic already or anything.」

Right after opening his mouth, the Guild master threw that sarcasm at us. Still, it can't really be helped. When any meddlesome Adventurers got in our way to the Guild Master's office, Urushi returned to its true size and bit their heads. Of course, he didn't kill them or anything; it was just simple play-biting. They *were* left half-dead and covered in blood because of it, though.

「And on top of being a Darkness Wolf, it's a Unique individual? Even though it's already a rare race…」

What? Unique individual? There's no way I overlooked something like that. Isn't Urushi just a regular Darkness Wolf?

「Unique individual? Urushi is?」

「Oh, you didn't notice? Normal Darkness Wolves have completely jet-black fur, but this fellow has red mixed in at the edges. Because it's tucked into the scarf, it's a bit hard to see. In addition to that, it has a Unique Skill. A regular Darkness Wolf wouldn't have something like that. Even if it was only Level 1, having one means it's a Unique individual.」

Seriously? I didn't know about that at all… I had never seen other Darkness Wolves, so I thought Urushi was the norm.

「Well, setting that aside… For accomplishing my request, thank you. With Amanda vouching for your strength as well as the addition of your familiar, people won't be making light of you anymore. Amanda's recognition in particular will spread through Merchants and Adventurers like wildfire, so when you arrive at Urmut it'll probably be a common rumor.」
「Nn.」
「Please make sure to take your Guild Card to the reception desk later. It'll be stamped to grant you entrance to Urmut's Dungeons.」

Alright, alright! With this, we can do Dungeons.

「Nn. Then, leaving.」
「*Ahh*, may I suggest confirming the status of your Job while you're there? A Job increase might be possible, after all. Usually it's 500 Gorudo, but I don't mind waiving the fee this time. Think of it as a farewell gift.」

A farewell gift, huh… So stingy! We'll accept it, though.

「Thank you.」
「When will you leave for Urmut?」
「Soon.」
「I see. It'll be a bit lonely.」
「…… You don't mean it.」
「*Hahaha*. That's not true. For better or for worse, you've impressed me. But, with this, my quiet daily life will return once more.」

「Nn. Take care.」

Seeing Fran lower her head with a **pekori** [2]
, the Guild Master's eyes went round. He seems pretty surprised. So Fran can do stuff like this too, huh?

BAKAN [3]

「*Fuu*. I kept being surprised right to the end.」

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[1] 'マッチョ' = Macho, 'ダンディ' = Dandy. Feel free to Google the two separated and/or together.
[2] Denotes lowering one's head.
[3] Door-slam SFX.

← | **Main** | →